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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

The Temple of Melekartha. 3 vols. small 8vo. London, 1831. Holdsworth and Ball.

THIS is a very extraordinary work,—a production at once of wild and vivid imagination, and yet of much thought. It is a philosophical and political essay, embodied in a romance. The scene is laid in the early and unknown time of history, and is the chronicle of a nation which, under the command of a wise prince, throws off the bondage of another people, and emigrates to a rocky isle, where it attains a very high state of wealth, civilisation, and power. The fatal effects of superstition, pestilence, and warfare, are shewn in its history. Parts are fine; but the story is extravagant, and the end not very clear. But to review it as a romance would give a small idea of its contents: perhaps we shall do the author more justice by a collection of extracts.

Speaking of Tyre: "They forget also a humiliating circumstance of their present condition, namely, that, among themselves, by the natural and unchecked encroachments of power and cupidity upon weakness and necessity, the vast wealth of the community has clustered itself together into a comparatively small number of enormous masses, which oppress and obstruct the movements of the body politic more than enrich it, and which, while they corrupt the few, leave the many in a condition of desperate wretchedness, such as deprives them of every feeling of patriotism, and allows the only hope of relief to fix itself upon gloomy ideas of revolution and anarchy."

"It is a capital error to imagine that the prosperity of a mercantile community can securely rest on the exclusive possession of any secret in art. With or without secrets, wealth and national importance will infallibly belong to the possessors of intelligence, industry, good government, and natural advantages of produce and position. Nothing but internal treason can reduce a people, so favoured, to poverty and dependence."

"If the state be a machine," said the father of his people, "poverty is a rottenness in the works, that must bring slow or sudden disruption upon all the parts. If the state be a living body, then does the sympathy of disease pass inevitably from member to member. Neither law nor force can intercept the correspondence, which shall at length convey the miseries of the ruinous hut wherein want hides its woes, to the halls of wrongful luxury. Selfishness is a blind vice, and grasps unknowing at its own destruction. Vainly does it strive to sever itself and its circle of trim indulgences from the sinking wretchedness of its neighbour. As well might the right hand regard with indifference a poisoned wound inflicted on the left. See you a stranger whom the winds have cast upon our island; take heed that he falls not into penny anear our homes; his welfare is our own; and though no kindness were to throb in our bosom, yet a provident selfishness would interpose in his behalf; for his wretchedness is of a

highly contagious quality. How much more certainly and fatally contagious would be the incidence of thousands of our brethren, were we to suffer thousands of them to fall into helpless want! The most perfect social system is the one, not in which either the haughty pretensions of the rich, or the contumacious demands of the poor, take their freest course; but that, whatever its form of polity may be, wherein the law of universal sympathy exists in the fullest vigour."

"It is certain that no counsels of conduct are so apt or so efficacious as those which burst upon conscience, while one contemplates, in the mirror of history, faults, infirmities, and perversities, which at a glance the reader recognises to be specifically his own."

The different members of the Taidonian councils are fine-sketched moral portraits: we select one as a specimen.

Speaking of the third chief: "His wisdom was not the intuitive sagacity which some men possess as perfectly in the early as in the last stage of life; but rather the ripened and accumulated fruit of long and large experience. So great and various had been his knowledge of human affairs, and so much was he addicted to reflection, that his anticipations of futurity were little less infallible than the announcements of Heaven. He spoke seldom in the senate; nor at any time descended upon the field of argument; nor ever added to the brief declaration of his advice, a single sentence that might serve to recommend it to the approval of others. It is hard to say whether he would not rather have witnessed the miscarriage of an enterprise, than patiently have demonstrated the false calculations of those whom he saw to be proceeding upon the hollow ground of fallacious hopes."

The ensuing, too, is a fine distinction.

"Habaddon had seemed always to be pressing on from the passing moment to the next: Tartak existed tranquilly in the present hour."

"Nothing often is more difficult than to effect inconsiderable changes in the usages of a people; nothing often more easy than to achieve surprising revolutions in their political condition. Mankind is pertinacious and adhesive in whatever is trivial; fickle and fond of change in whatever is momentous."

"A king is a man of business. Call men of business to your service; and with such on your right hand and on your left, administer the affairs of your empire solely on those common, intelligible, long-tried, and indisputable principles which the good sense of the mass of mankind approves. Be not too impatient of things confessedly imperfect: old and familiar errors are less dangerous often than young truths. Revise, amend, corroborate; press towards the better; but be slow to renovate. Act more than meditate."

"Men of intellectual tastes, inflated by the vastness of political speculations, lose all recollection of common sense amid the pleasures of contrivance. They talk of man, and of his position in society, as lightly as if they were cal-

culating the movements of pawns on a chess-board; and persuade themselves that human beings are as manageable as figures of ivory."

"If the accommodations and the luxuries of the body be the ultimate and highest objects of human desire, then let philosophy pretend to no other place than that of the slave of art. If man finds his perfection when he is clad in attire of exquisite workmanship, sleeps beneath decorated roofs, is conveyed, as on the wings of the wind, over roads smooth as the pavement of a palace: if softness, and finery, and facility, confer all the bliss which man should think of, then let science humbly whisper in the ear of the artisan her improved methods—and do no more. But we spurn these notions, bred of commerce, and tending to render money the god of universal idolatry, as the bestower of whatever can be thought desirable. Find a country in which the mechanical and chemical sciences take the lead, explicitly because deemed the most useful, and you find a community wherein wealth, more than either wisdom or virtue, is held in honour,—a community in which both are a jest, unless attired in silks. Men of intelligence are marvellously blind to their interests as a body, when they tacitly favour this subserviency of philosophy to the hard-handed arts of life: yes, and forgetful also of the influence they might exert in behalf of the mass of the people. To fulfil their function as an organ in the body politic, men of learning must hold an absolute independence. But they have virtually recognised their own subordination when they allow it to be supposed that vulgar utility is the end of science. What is this utility, when embodied, but a somewhat which money may purchase? Utility, rendered into the language of facts, means, a splendid crimson cloak—a richly embodied tunic—a painted vase—a carved table—an inlaid couch—a fretted roof—a flying chariot. Thus philosophy is confessed as a menial in the train of opulence! In every civilised community we find, on the one hand, the mass of the people; and on the other, the ever-swelling and combined forces of government, and wealth, and hereditary rank, wrestling against each other; and the latter pressing with the constancy and insidiousness of physical agents, upon the rights of nature in the multitude; taxing and taxing, and taxing yet again, not the mere comforts, but the heart's blood of the many, and driving human life nearer and nearer upon the very verge of naked existence. What power then shall mediate between the few who are the possessors of this crushing force, and the many who are its victims? Say, if you will, a principle of beneficent self-denial in the hearts of the opulent and the noble. Alas! the beneficent few learn to whisper, 'If we decline to withdraw his cloak from the poor man's shoulders, another will rend it thence with less tenderness.' Will you defend the poor against the rich by political constitutions? That very spirit of liberty which belongs to such systems, breeds an atrocious and selfish pride, and indurates the heart. The security of life and property,

which are the boast of popular governments, only favours and accelerates the accumulation of wealth, and nerves the arm of oppression by the corroboration of law. Political freedom, while it sanctimoniously protects the poor man's life, laughs at his starvation. Do we not then, even for the people's sake, need a third power,—a power in its very element separate from wealth, and yet lifted above the rude influence of popular caprice? But a philosophy which is nothing more than an instructor of the mechanic arts, and which, therefore, receives its stipend from wealth, and cringes to it, can never so mediate. I am, you perceive, myself pleading for a philosophy not subservient to utility, on the ground of utility; but it is a utility of a higher sort; and affirm that the people need an intervening influence which, by its absolute independence, shall intimidate the brutal caprices of despotism, and abash the selfishness of opulence. A high and independent philosophy reserves an honour for mind, which neither rank nor money can snatch from its rightful claimants; and as nature scatters the rare endowments of intelligence equally upon cottages and palaces, the poor have a field open to them, when learning has a precinct on which to contend with the rich, where gold can purchase no advantage."

The following are one or two touches, full of the poetry of description.

"Shoals of brightly coloured fish flashed, from time to time, beneath us, like sheets of summer lightning.

"The sun, fore-run by no silvery dawn, burst rayless and lurid from the east; frowned through his course; was pale at noon, and went down sudden, without leaving a glory to declare at what point he had parted from the upper skies.

"The dawn of the next day opened murky. Mishapen clouds, dissolving into limbs and fragments, and again clustering in masses, hastened up from the east, and sped across the sky, like forerunners of evil hours.

"The plain, to which the eye discerned no limit, inclined sensibly towards the southern sun. Its surface was varied by gentle undulations, and broken by scattered masses of granite. A fine grass, of brilliant greenness, covered the soil, interspersed with a countless variety of small and sparkling flowers. Wild thyme, and other fragrant herbs, held also their districts here and there, and enriched the gales with their perfumes. But except around a single spot, where art had supplied the defect of nature, neither tree nor shrub graced the plain."

This is contrasted by a wood.

"The travellers entered a shade of lofty trees; and here first they noted the strange intermixture of the awful relics of an elder time with the young and living produce of later ages. Here and there, amid the flourishing trunks and crowded foliage of trees in their prime of youth and beauty, tending direct to heaven, were seen oaks of enormous bulk and altitude, reclining, riven, shattered, leafless, and utterly dead, protruding their vast and sapless limbs far through and among the modern verdure; or rearing their scathed heads above the level of foliage, affronted the summer sky with their wintry nakedness. The palm also of the desolated world, slanting athwart the modern stems, lifted its shorn head to heaven; and though itself a sear column, gave support to an abundance of flowery climbers—the gay produce of each spring; and thus brought into forcible contrast—yesterday and the remotest time!"

Our limits forbid further extract, at least this week; and we leave for the present, what we cannot but again designate as a most extraordinary work, blending conceptions of the wildest extravagance with the most acute intellect,—a romance, whose scenes are like rich phantasmagoria, yet with thoughts and opinions marked by immense information and profound reflection. It is a Utopia, whose idea and colours are best likened to one of Martin's most gorgeous and imaginative pictures. We have rarely been so much struck with a nameless production.

Sermons intended to shew a sober Application of Scriptural Principles to the Realities of Life: with a Preface addressed to the Clergy. By John Miller, M.A., late Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford. 8vo. pp. 475. Oxford, 1830, Parker; London, Rivingtons.

Orlando Innamorato di Bojardo, Orlando Furioso di Ariosto; with an Essay on the Romantic Narrative Poetry of the Italians: Memoirs and Notes. By Antonio Panizzi. Vol. III. 8vo. pp. 386. London, 1830. Pickering.

WE have thus introduced an English divine into the society of two Italian poets, neither for the purpose of hazarding the orthodoxy of the first, nor with the hope of effecting the regeneration of the latter; but solely in order to obviate the inconvenience of noticing a work in one part of our *Gazette*, while we wish to quote from it in another. In brief, and not the less earnest praise of Panizzi's very beautiful volume, we shall, saving our purpose of quotation from a note, dismiss the work without further comment or commendation. In reverting to the Sermons of Mr. Miller, we would preface our remarks by observing, that he is a man whose opinion on most subjects unquestionably on the subject of which he at present treats, carries with it a very deep influence with all that know who and what he is. This, however, is no more than the respect and homage which sound erudition and an enlarged mind invariably and justly elicits. In his opinion, too, we find that of many who "stand in the high places," and are therefore the more prominently involved in the interests of the subject he approaches.

Without entering into the question of church reform, we proceed to quote his observations. They are cautious and unobtrusive, as the words of the wise and modest ever are.

"Must there not, again, be many others, who, while they love and venerate the church of England, both as 'the pillar and ground of the truth,' and as the only ark (in this our own kingdom at least) of any thing like proper toleration or just religious liberty, yet cannot blind themselves to flaws and weaknesses, which may be here and there detected in its aggregate condition, of which it were no less than folly to deny the existence? Must it not be grief to these, to mark the almost equally erroneous violence and pertinacity with which these frailties are respectively defended and assailed? which imperfections they would wish, of all things, to have corrected and removed, but which it is made scarcely possible to touch, for any such good end, by reason of the fierce, ungenerous clamour round about the sanctuary, and the variety of enemies, all ready to rush in to build up their own visionary schemes, or schemes of selfishness, upon its ruins."

Before offering our brief remarks upon the above, we shall bring under the view of our readers a note from Panizzi's volume, no less interesting as containing a curious piece of

historical information, than what, in reference to Mr. Miller's preface, we conceive to be a case in point.

"It gave me great pleasure to find a copy of this most rare pamphlet" in the collection of the Right Hon. T. Grenville, who placed it in my hands, and allowed me to republish it. I determined upon making use of this liberal permission, since this little book is of the greatest rarity, and its contents are strictly connected with the life of Berni, and the history of his *Rifacimento* of the *Innamorato*. The copy in possession of Mr. Grenville was printed in 1554, and not 1555; it has neither name of printer, nor of the place where it was published; but it has all the appearance of having been printed at Basle. It consists of one single sheet, small 8vo, in italics, except the title-page. From its contents it will appear, first, that an authentic edition of the *Rifacimento* was suppressed by the Court of Rome, which was more afraid of books exposing its abuses than of immoral publications, as I myself observed, vol. ii. p. 138; secondly, that such low and vulgar lines as disfigure the introduction to the 20th canto in the *Rifacimento* are not by Berni, since they are not found in the stanzas published in this pamphlet; thirdly, that I was right in suspecting that great liberties have been taken with Berni's *Rifacimento*, since most of the stanzas contained in this little publication are not in the editions of the poem *rifatto*, by Berni, and the few which occur in the *Rifacimento* differ considerably from those which are inserted in that little tract; and fourthly, that most of the greatest men attached to the court of Rome were inclined to the principles of the reformers; and that Berni himself was a Protestant in his heart, at least in his latter days. Giberti, we know, introduced a very good discipline, and eradicated many abuses in his diocese of Verona; and he was the most intimate friend of the great poet M. A. Flaminio, who was undoubtedly attached to the Protestant creed. Cardinal Frederic Fregoso, also, has been considered favourable to the reform; and although the same has not been said of the others mentioned in these stanzas, there is nothing improbable in the fact. They were intimately connected with persons either favourable to the reformation, or who openly embraced it."

We shall now take the freedom of remarking, that Mr. Miller's observations on church reform, carry along with them an inference which is little else than an excuse for the continuance of the very abuses he deprecates and deplores. We would ask the plain lay question, Whether, where abuses (call them "imperfections" if you will) are acknowledged to exist, are they to go on and on, because of "the clamour round about the sanctuary?" What is it that calls forth this clamour, but the existence of these abuses? of which the admission ought surely to be followed up by the removal. Are the rotten parts of the sanctuary to moulder on, because "its enemies are ready to rush in?" Are its weaker parts, which it is in the power of its rulers to make strong—to remain in their weakness, as breaches for the enemy to enter in by, and without which, it may be added, he would not venture to attack, or would do so without hope of success? At the time of the reformation, we perceive from the foregoing singular and important note, that many of those who "stood in the high places" of the Roman church heard the cry then, as now, not against religion itself, but against its abuses; and they, too, wished for the removal

* By Vergerio.

of "imperfections" (they ought to have felt the necessity), but they did not, "because of the clamour round about the sanctuary," *themselves repair it*; and so it was knocked about their ears.

The object at which Mr. Miller aims in his Sermons, and recommends to the clergy, is "the application of Scriptural principles to the realities of life." If discourses, with this professed object, have not been published, the example has been set, and by none more efficiently than by our metropolitan prelate. Mr. Miller has, we think, fully accomplished his purpose, and that in a forcible and unassuming style, alike adapted to the understanding of the highly educated, and to his less fortunate brother,—in a word, to all but those who have "eyes to see, yet see not."

Narrative of Discovery and Adventure in Africa, from the earliest Ages to the present Time, with Illustrations of the Geology, Mineralogy, and Zoology. By Professor Jameson, James Wilson, Esq. F.R.S.E., and Hugh Murray, Esq. F.R.S.E. *Being No. II. of the Edinburgh Cabinet Library.* Edinburgh, 1830. Oliver and Boyd; London, Simpkin and Marshall.

THE greater part of this volume is occupied with an analysis of voyages and travels, principally abridged from a work in three volumes, bearing nearly the same title, and published a few years since by one of the present compilers.

This analysis of voyages and travels relates only to Central and Southern Africa, no account being given of either Egypt, Nubia, Abyssinia, or the states of Barbary; and very little being said of either the Great Desert, or the oases of El Onah, Siwah, and El Khargah. The analysis is clearly and agreeably written; and though it contains nothing very new or very striking, (most of the travels from which it is abridged being in every body's hands,) it may yet be read with both interest and pleasure. We were, however, rather startled to find Mr. Murray implicitly admitting the somewhat apocryphal statements of René Caillié, and giving the following curious reason for his belief.

"His statement, too, with all its defects, bears an aspect of *simplicity and good faith*, and contains various minute details, including undesigned coincidences with facts ascertained from other quarters. *His false reports of celestial phenomena might arise from his ignorance of such subjects; while his inaccuracies in regard to Major Laing might proceed from the defective hearsay information on which he depended.* Perhaps these last form rather a presumption in his favour, since, in composing a forgery, he would probably have brought his statements into a studious agreement with those of the Quarterly Review, *well known as the only authentic source in this country.*"

We doubt very much whether Mr. René Caillié would feel much flattered at having his blunders ascribed to ignorance and credulity; nay, we are not even quite sure that he would be pleased to be complimented on his simplicity; and we were certainly not before aware, that the Quarterly Review was "the only authentic source" of information on the subject.

We have, however, faults of a more serious nature to find with the introductory chapter, which professes to give a general view of Africa "in its original state, as it came from the hands of Nature." It is written in a vague, inflated style, alike unsuited to the subject of which it treats, and the readers for whom we presume it to be designed. In some parts it is not even

intelligible; and we candidly confess ourselves at a loss to divine how an immense continent, "abounding with the most striking and surprising contrasts," can present, "on a general view, a certain uniformity, approaching almost to monotony." The following passage is also rather alarming for the Africans.

"Africa, considered in relation to her place on the map, forms an extensive continent, situated nearly in the centre of the earth, and obstructing the great highway across the ocean. Her coasts form the chief barrier to a direct maritime intercourse between the distant extremities of the globe. * * * *Could Africa cease to exist, great facilities would be afforded to the communication between the other continents, and many new channels of commerce would be opened up.*"

What should we think, if some learned professor of Timbuctoo were gravely to assert, "that England obstructed the highway between America and Sweden;" and that, if our troublesome little island were to be removed, great facilities would be afforded to the communication between the Baltic and the Mississippi!

The name of Professor Jameson made us expect that great light would be thrown upon the obscure and puzzling subject of African geology; but we were disappointed to find the account of the Natron or Trona Lakes is comprised in a short extract from one of Dr. Oudney's letters, published in Denham and Clapperton's travels; that the African rivers are dismissed in half a page; and that many other very curious and interesting phenomena are not even alluded to.

The wood-cuts are very good, and the book is extremely well got up for its very moderate price.

The Siamese Twins, &c. Colburn and Bentley.

[Second Notice.]

THE originality of this poem, together with its satire, will no doubt expose it to a variety and severity of criticism. It will be tried by standards which are not justly applicable to its plan, and it will be judged by opinions which have no consideration of its merits. Before this happens, we are happy to repeat our sentiments, and to say that, taking it as a whole, and disregarding the few blemishes which a hypercritical and hostile examination might point out, we have found so many poetical beauties in it, and, withal, so fine a spirit of philosophical acumen, that we do not hesitate to rank it among the most striking productions of the literature of our period.

This sentence we shall proceed to verify by farther extracts, which display the several qualities we have designated. For the first of these we revert to an early page of the volume, and give the description of a Hindoo temple, visited by the Twins previous to their departure from Siam.

"The jungle is cleared, and the moon shines bright
On a broad and silent plain;
And (gaunt in the midst) the streaming light
Sleeps, hushed on a giant fane!
No late-built, gay, and glittering shrine,
Like those the Boudhist holds divine;
But simple, lone, gray, vast, and hoar,
All darkly-eloquent of old!
The farthest years of untold yore
That temple had beheld.
Sadly and desolately now,
It raised to heaven its gloomy brow;
Its altars silent and unrod—
The faith has left the Brahmin's God."

The Twins are witness to a fearful incantation here, which is painted in language of extraordinary force; but we have so much before us, that we must pass it by, and come to part

of an apostrophe "to the grave," which introduces Book III.

"Hearken, O grave! beneath me lying;
Hearken—my heart shall speak to thee!
I know not whose the dust supplying
Thy red and creeping progeny:
No stone is there; the swathing willow
Curtains alone the sleeper's pillow.
But boots it who that couch may claim?
Thy homilies remain the same!
And round thee vibrates the unsold
And soft air with a moral deep;
And voices vague and disembodied
O'er thee a fearful vigil keep.
Preacher and prophet, to imbibe
Thy lore, itself the spirit husheth,
And swift and noiselessly a tribe
Of dreams into the silence rusheth.
But dreams like his whose burning lips
Revealed the dread Apocalypse,
Glaßing, though in a troublous mirror,
The dim but starry truths of fate,
Weird shadows of that world of terror
Or love, to which thou art the gate."

Our next quotation is a vision of love.

"Ere the end be gained, what bright
But half-caught visions haunt the sight!
Back into shade the vision shrinks,
But not its memory of delight!
Flock thousand dim and fairy feelings,
Love only wakes, our spirit o'er!
Vague thoughts we fain would call revealings,
The stars grow lovelier than before;
From our earth's clay a cloud is driven,
And we gaze oftener on the heaven.
There the soft instinct seems to win us;
Something, new-kinded, stirs within us;
The lesser and the lower aims
Of life, the ennobled heart disclaims;
The fervour in its very faults
Refines, and mellow, and exalts.
* * *
Possession may content the flame,
And calm, nay happily quell, the flame;
But those wild visions and aspirations,
The unbodied, dream-like, dim desires—
They shun all earthlier fruition!—
They speak an uncompleted doom!
They murmur at the clay's condition,
And pine within us to the tomb!
Yes! love brings something more than love!
A prophet and divine impression,
That that which yearneth here, above
Shall not be all denied possession.
Though dormant in the secret breast
Through the harsh toil, and grinding strife,
And sluggish sleep, that eke the rest
Of the long acts of motley life;
Though dormant, may the guest divine
Lurk in its lone discoloured shrine;
(For as our gloomy way we grope,
We ask but light from earthly hope,
Ne'er seeking, and but darkly seeing,
The inward glory of our being!)
At once it wakes, and breathes, and moves,
The instant that our nature loves—
No! never human lover knew
A passion deeper felt and true!
And did not, ere his love declined,
Feel the immortal of the mind;
Feel how, unseen and still, we cherish
That something never doomed to perish,
And own the homeward-pining sigh
Of the pent exile of the sky!"

A farewell parting affords some exquisite touches on the same topic.

"We'll meet—once more
I do not say, 'Be true to me,'
I know that deep and tender heart!
I only tell thee, 'Live to see'
How lov'd, how truly lov'd, thou art!
Ah! what are years to those whose thought
Can bear them o'er the gulf of space?
By grief itself my soul hath bought
The right to fly to thine embrace!
Methinks, if when, once more we meet,
The form be bowed, the locks be thin—
'Tis but thy welcome eyes to greet,
To light Youth's lamp once more within!
Age is not made for us! No! all
The past defies its withering breath!
The snows of Time on Love may fall,
And only warm the soil beneath.
Well, weep—weep on! for hearts like ours
Methinks 'tis sometimes wise to weep!
For if our love had flowed o'er deep
It ne'er had been a stream so deep!"

We can only refer readers to the moral drawn from the tale (pages 240 *et seq.*); and, by way of contrast to our last extract, copy a portrait of the *doctor* employed to separate the Siamese.

"This gentleman in black was dressed;
A noble frill adorned his breast;

An air which, Conrad-like, had damped
Questions absurd—his visage stamped.
In his plain face few charms the lover
Of classic features could discover;
No modish grace leen'd forth in him—
Simple his dress, but simply prim:
Yet he who paused to look again,
Saw more than marks the herd of men.
Something about him vaguely said,
'This man could do a deed of dread—
Jesu! defend us from the dead!
Something about his garb, his gravity,
His smile so sombre in its suavity,
His searching eye, his wrinkled nose,
The tightness of his black smallclothes—
Shewed him, at once, one of that race
Whose spell can pierce the closest places:
Who haunt the coyest solitudes,
And sit beside the bed of prudes.
The chastest maid could scarce deny
His midnight visit never shockt her;
And matrons, should their girls be shy,
Would cry, 'What! basful to the doctor?'
Yes, reader, for the worst prepare
Think of your poor soul, I implore you!
Your will!—you've not an hour to spare!
A son of Galen is before you!
Pooh! let us not be so malicious,
Your licensed leech is never vicious.
Death from his hands should give no terror;
In him 'tis 'Accidental error'!
But quacks who do the art usurp, us,
Like St. John Long, destroy on purpose!
Pouring dammed gas, I do assure ye,
Into our lungs, by way of potion,
And making, with infernal fury,
Holes in our poor backs with a lotion!
But this, sweet reader, let me urge on
Your kind remembrance, was a surgeon,
Licensed to do your business ably:
One died with him most comfortably!"

The following admirable lines relate to the anxiety with which one awaits the result of a dreaded surgical operation upon a beloved object.

"All's still! Eternity devours,
Silent and dark, his offspring Hours—
The hours within whose hearts we see
Life, moving in its mystery, centered!
Those separate drops in Time's great sea,
In which we animalcules leap
To life, from matter's working sleep;
And, after that brief span of strife,
In which we play the fool with life;
Not by one millionth of the mass
In the same globe seen, or seeing;
In which to death what millions pass!
Their death the ripeness of new being!
Oh! dark, yet not all starless doom,
The blessing twin-born with the curse!
That fratheth one eternal tomb
From the all-teeming universe!
Yet from the reeking jaws of death
Calleft again the unquenching breath,
Making a universal soul
For green decay but to absorb it,
And life's rejoicing circle roll
For ever through corruption's orbit!
Who hath not some time past the hours
In that suspense, o'erwrought, unresting,
When one loved dearly, with the powers
Of Death's dark angel lies contesting?
How awfully the moments roll
To—what unknown and shadowy goal!
While he, perchance, unconscious sleeps,
For whom thy spirit's bitterest trial—
How the clock's solemn chiming keeps
Dread note upon the heart's cold dial!
As scarce you catch the languid moan
That marks the progress of the strife,
How agonising seems your own
Intensity and stir of life!
How idle are all the arts and powers,
The boasted fruit of learned hours!
Nought there to save—nay, more, to ease
One pang, one shiver, of disease!
To gather on the black abyss
Balm for thy heart, or strength for his;
Or with thy worst foe, Thought, to cope,
Save that poor impotence called Hope!
Say, who is fated fole to be
A watcher on that bridge of gloom,
Which sways a hair above a sea
Of doubt, despair, and doom!"

We know nothing beyond the depth and impressiveness of this passage: it is enough to redeem a volume; and with it we shall bid adieu to the poem, adding only, as in our last, a few brief examples of thought and expression.

Advice.

"Of these the student spake, and still
The lore grew lovely on his tongue;
For Wisdom's tale needs slender skill,
If not too harshly strung."

A comparison.

"And his flesh and members quivered,
Like a man but just delivered
From a peril or a sin!"

Descriptive.

"Like youth upon a holyday,
The brook sprang freshly on its way;
A noisy voice of gladness sending
Through antique oak, and ozier bending
Along its broken marge,
Till in the Thames it dies away:
Its death-bed, reeds and wild flowers (breathing
A requiem faint, but fragrant) wreathing.
And there your step for hours might stay,
Bank, sky, and river, to survey:
The lonely fisher moor'd hard by,
Where yon green islet woos the eye:
The black and heavy barge,
And the light vessel swiftly gliding,
With pleasure and gay hearts presiding,
On either bank the while you see
The cot, the villa, whitely studding
The fair ascent, where many a tree
Into the life of spring is budding."

Grief.

"Hark! there went forth a groan!
By the lattice the boughs were stirr'd,
And the heavy step on the threshold stone,
Of a heavy heart was heard!"

"There the wan moon, just risen, cast
A ghastly whiteness o'er the sword."

Life.

"As waters glass a distant star,
We woo some light from heavens afar,
And, imaged in our soul, we dream
The wave that gains, arrests the beam:
Hushed in a false content we stray,
And glide, perchance to gloom, away!"

The production which we have thus illustrated is followed by about seventy pages of miscellaneous poems, the principal of which is entitled "Milton," and is a much improved version of a delightful composition, previously, but very partially, published by the author. We are sorry we can afford but small space to this theme: six lines, indeed, must suffice for Milton's love.

"Her lip grew blanch'd, as with an ominous fear,
And all her heart seemed trembling in her tear.
So worshipp'd he in silence and sweet wonder,
The unknown Egeria of his haunted soul;
And Hope, life's chequering moonlight, smiled asunder
The doubts that, cloud-like, o'er him sought to roll."

Of the shorter pieces, the following *jeux-d'esprit* are fair and various specimens.

"If the poor made laws for the rich—the rich,
What a chaos would be in our jails would be!
Which would be for the best?—and which—oh, which,
Bring the most to the gallows tree?
They would pass a nobleman vagrant bill,
For the fellows who idly roam;
The Travellers' Club would be sent to the Mill,
And Lord E.—he be pass'd to—home.
They'd make game laws for the sporting one,
And refuse a squire to bail;
Old B.—ks would be shot with a good spring-gun,
And Sh.—y would rot in jail!
'Most libellous trash,' the books that blind
The eyes of the mass they'd call;
Murray's Review would be damnable fined,
And they'd ruin great Captain H.—ll.
They'd make it a capital crime to pay
One's-self from the public purse;
Our younger sons would be shipped to 'the Bay,'
And the Bishop of ——— worse!"

"To Juliet: a Thought at Night.

"In yonder taper's waning light,
An image of my heart I see;
It burns amid a lonely night—
Its life the love of thee.
The steadfast light its passion takes,
But slowly wastes while it illumines;
And while my very life it makes,
My life itself consumes."

"On the Imitators of Byron: a Fable.

A swan hymn'd music on the Muses' waves,
And Song's sweet daughters wept within their caves;
It chanced the bird had something then deemed new,
Not in the music only, but the hue—
Black were his plumes;—the rooks that heard on high,
Came envying round, and darkened all the sky;
Each rook, ambitious of a like applause,
Clapped his grave wings, and Pierus rung with caws.
What of the swan's attractions could they lack—
Their noise as mournful, and their wings as black?
In vain we cry—the secret you mistook,
And grief is d-d discordant in a rook!"

And here we end our pleasant task. From Mr. Bulwer's volume we have extracted much food both for reflection and enjoyment; and we trust that the taste and feelings of the great majority of the public will be in unison with ours; in which case much gratification is in store for them, and admiration for the author.

Paris's Life of Sir H. Davy.

[Third notice.]

It is quite delightful to trace the workings of such a mind as that of Davy in the successive discoveries which resulted from his profound researches concerning chemical agency. Thus, we find that so early as Oct. 1800, when engaged at the Bristol Pneumatic Institution, he announced, in a letter to his friend Mr. Davies Gilbert, the dawn of those splendid discoveries which effected in a few years a revolution in our knowledge of the nature of electrical phenomena and chemical agency:—"In pursuing experiments on galvanism during the last two months, I have met with unexpected and unlooked-for success. Some of the new facts on this subject promise to afford instruments capable of destroying the mysterious veil which Nature has thrown over the operations and properties of ethereal fluids. Galvanism I have found, by numerous experiments, to be a process purely chemical, and to depend wholly on the oxidation of metallic surfaces, having different degrees of electric conducting power. Zinc is incapable of decomposing pure water; and if the zinc plates be kept moist with pure water, the galvanic pile does not act; but zinc is capable of oxidating itself when placed in contact with water holding in solution either oxygen, atmospheric air, or nitrous or muriatic acid, &c.; and under such circumstances the galvanic phenomena are produced; and their intensity is in proportion to the rapidity with which the zinc is oxidated."

The admission of the great English chemist as a member of the Royal Society, in 1803, of which he afterwards became the president, formed a distinguished era in his life. The first communication he sent to the Society was a paper on galvanic agency, in 1801; but during the year of his admission, he embodied in one elaborate paper all his previous researches connected with the astringent properties of vegetables, and their application in the process of tanning, published in the *Philosophical Transactions* of that year. The remarks of Dr. Paris on the great value of these experiments, are well worthy of the perusal of all persons interested in the various branches of the leather manufactures.

We also particularly recommend to our scientific readers the interesting narrative of those masterly researches which formed the prelude to Davy's most splendid discovery—that of the reduction of alkaline substances to their ultimate or metallic bases; which researches formed the subject of the celebrated Bakerian lecture, read before the Royal Society in Nov. 1807. Our limits enable us only to give the following commentary, at the close of the biographer's account of these profound researches connected with the ultimate analysis of chemical substances.

"Thus, then, was a discovery effected, and at once rendered complete, which all the chemists in Europe had vainly attempted to accomplish. The alkalies had been tortured by every variety of experiment which ingenuity could suggest, or perseverance perform, but all in vain; nor was the pursuit abandoned until indefatigable effort had wrecked the patience

and exhausted every resource of the experimentalist. Such was the disheartening and almost forlorn condition of the philosopher when Davy entered the field: he created new instruments, new powers, and fresh resources; and Nature, thus interrogated on a different plan, at once revealed her long-cherished secret."

Nothing can, however, shew the versatile genius of Davy in a stronger light than the following fact, that, at the very period (Sept. 12, 1807) when he was engaged in those elaborate inquiries respecting the nature of Voltaic agency on the alkalis, and preparing for that celebrated lecture which astonished the scientific world throughout Europe, we find the following passage in one of the many valuable letters addressed to his friend Mr. Davies Gilbert:—

"I have been a good deal engaged, since my return, on experiments on distillation; and I have succeeded in effecting what is considered of great importance in colonial commerce, namely, the depriving rum of its empyreumatic part, and converting it into pure spirit. I mention this in confidence, as it is likely to be connected with some profitable results; and it may be beneficial in a public point of view, by lessening the consumption of malt."

We must pass over the biographer's account of the piscatory qualifications of Davy, to make room for some of the reflections on his successive discoveries:—

"In the progress of our ascent (says Dr. Paris), it is refreshing to pause occasionally, and to cast a glance at the horizon, which widens at every increase of our elevation. By the decomposition of the alkalis and earths, what an immense stride has been made in the investigation of nature! In sciences kindred to chemistry, the knowledge of the composition of these bodies, and the analogies arising from it, have opened new views, and led to the solution of new problems. In geology, for instance, has it not shewn that there are agents in the formation of rocks and earths, which had not previously been known to exist? It is evident that the metals of the earths cannot remain at the surface of the globe; but it is probable that they may constitute a part of its interior; and such an assumption would at once offer a plausible theory in explanation of the phenomena of volcanoes, the formation of lavas, and the excitement and effects of subterranean heat, and might even lead to a general theory in geology."

Our limits compel us to omit the record of numerous particulars and events in the life of Davy, till the year 1812, a period which, on several accounts, produced a material change in the personal character, as well as the scientific labours, of our late distinguished chemist; but we prefer quoting the words and the reflections of his biographer.

"The scientific renown of Davy having attracted the attention of his late majesty, then prince regent, he received from his royal highness the honour of knighthood, at a levee held at Carlton-house, on Wednesday the 8th April, 1812; and it may be remarked, that he was the first person on whom that honour had been conferred by the regent. On the day following this occurrence, Sir Humphry delivered his farewell lecture before the members of the Royal Institution; for he was on the eve of assuming a new station in society, which induced him to retire from those public situations, which he had long held with so much advantage to the world, and with so much honour to himself. How far such a measure was calculated to in-

crease his happiness I shall not inquire; but I am bound to observe, that it was not connected with any desire to abandon the pursuit of science, nor even to relax in his accustomed exertions to promote its interests. It was evident, however, to his friends, that other views of ambition than those presented by achievements in science, had opened upon his mind. The wealth he was about to command might extend the sphere of his usefulness, and exalt him in the scale of society. His feelings became more aristocratic; he discovered charms in rank which had before escaped him, and he no longer viewed patrician distinction with philosophic indifference. On the 11th of April, 1812, Sir Humphry married Mrs. Apreece, the widow of Shuckburgh Ashby Apreece, Esq. eldest son of Sir Thos. Apreece. This lady was the daughter and heiress of Charles Kerr of Kelso, Esq. and possessed a very considerable fortune."

After this period, we find Sir Humphry contributing occasional papers on the more refined branches of chemical agencies, during each succeeding session of the Royal Society; and he also collected his previous researches under a general head, and published, in June 1812, "The Elements of Chemical Philosophy," a work distinguished for its profound and elaborate views of chemical combination. This was followed, in 1813, by the publication of his "Elements of Agricultural Chemistry," of which Dr. Paris justly remarks: "this work may be considered as the only system of philosophical agriculture ever published in this country: it has not only contributed to the advancement of science, but to that upon which the author has an equal claim to our gratitude—the diffusion of a taste amongst the highest classes for its cultivation; for it has been wisely remarked, that not he alone is to be esteemed a benefactor to mankind who makes a useful discovery, but he also who can point out an innocent pleasure. It has been already stated, that Davy became early impressed with the importance of the subject. That in future life its investigation should have been to him so fertile a source of pleasure, may therefore be readily imagined, when it is remembered with what passionate delight he contemplated the ever-varying forms of creation. In the early spring it led him forth upon the fresh turf in the vernal sunshine, to scent the odours of the bank perfumed by the violet and enamelled with the primrose, while his heart participated in the renovated gladness of nature." To this glowing account of the pastoral and agricultural pursuits of our distinguished philosopher, we can only adduce the testimony of every enlightened agriculturist in the kingdom, as to the vast practical advantages that have resulted to this country from improvements of poor soils, and the economy of manures, since the publication of Davy's admirable "Elements."

In the autumn of 1813, Sir Humphry Davy (accompanied by Lady Davy, and Mr. Faraday, the present eminent lecturer at the Royal Institution) having obtained from Buonaparte permission to travel through France, and visit the capital, Dr. Paris informs us, that "the expected arrival of Davy had been a subject of conversation with the French savans for more than a month. Among those who were loudest in his praises was M. Ampère, who had for several years frequently expressed his opinion that Davy was the greatest chemist that had ever appeared. Whether this flattering circumstance had been communicated to the English philosopher, I have no means of ascertaining; but Mr. Underwood informs me, that the very first

wish which Davy expressed, was to be introduced to this gentleman, whom he considered as the only chemist in Paris who had duly appreciated the value of his discoveries; an opinion which he afterwards took no care to conceal, and which occasioned amongst the savans much surprise and some dissatisfaction."

The following little anecdote shews that the great English chemist of the 19th century was not more exempt from a childish superstition on some occasions, than the great English lexicographer of the 18th century.

"Mr. Underwood informs me, that on the 17th Nov. (1813), he met Humboldt at dinner at Davy's hotel; and adds: 'I do not know whether you are aware that Davy had a superstitious dislike at seeing a knife and fork placed crosswise on a plate at dinner, or upon any other occasion; but I can assure you such was the fact; and when it occurred in the company of his intimate friends, he always requested that they might be displaced: whenever this could not be done, he was evidently very uncomfortable.'"

It has been admitted, by many of the warmest admirers of the late Sir Humphry Davy, that during the zenith of his philosophical career he evinced a certain ambition of being considered as the sole discoverer of any new agent or chemical result; which by some persons was interpreted as a species of jealousy of the pursuits of contemporary philosophers. As this remark is peculiarly applicable to his researches on the nature of iodine, we deem it just, both to Davy and his biographer, to give the subjoined statement of the case.

"On the morning of the 23d November, M. Ampère called upon Davy, and placed in his hands a small portion of a substance which he had received from M. Clement; and although it had been in possession of the French chemists for more than twelve months, so entirely ignorant were they of its true nature and composition, that it was constantly spoken of amongst them as X. the unknown body. How far the suggestions of Davy led to the discovery of the chemical nature of this interesting substance, which has been since distinguished by the name of iodine, is a question which has given rise to much discussion on the continent. It has been moreover questioned how far the love of science and the fervour of emulation can justify the interference which Davy is said to have displayed on this occasion. He is accused of having unfairly taken the subject out of the hands of those who were engaged in its investigation, and to have anticipated their results. As his biographer, I feel that it is not only due to the character of Davy, but essential to the history of science, that these questions should be impartially examined: and I have spared no pains in collecting facts for their elucidation. Mr. Underwood, who was in the constant habit of associating with the parties concerned in the inquiry, has furnished me with some important particulars, and his testimony is fortified by public documents. The substance under dispute was accidentally discovered by M. Courtois, a manufacturer of saltpetre at Paris, but kept secret by him for several years. At length, however, he communicated it to M. Clement, who made several experiments on it, but without any favourable result. On the 23d August, 1813, Clement exhibited to Mr. Underwood the beautiful experiment of raising it into a violet-coloured vapour, and that gentleman assures me that this was the only peculiar property which had at that time been recognised as distinguishing it. A few days previous to this event, M. Am-

père had received a specimen of the substance, which he had carefully folded up in paper, and deposited in his pocket; but, on arriving home, and opening the packet, he was surprised to find that his treasure had vanished. Clement, however, furnished him with another supply, and it was this parcel that Ampère transferred into the hands of Davy; and for which (says Mr. Underwood) he told me, a few days ago, that Thénard and Gay Lussac were extremely angry with him."

Like a zealous advocate for his countryman's scientific reputation, the doctor proceeds, by examining the dates of the papers read by the contending philosophers, to claim the honour of this discovery—"I was (he says) very desirous of ascertaining the feeling which at present prevails amongst the French chemists upon this subject; and I, therefore, requested Mr. Underwood to make such inquiries as might elicit the required information. In a letter to that gentleman, dated Paris, August 22, 1830, he says, 'though Thénard and Gay Lussac retain great bitterness of feeling towards Davy, on account of the affair of iodine, Chevreul and Ampère are still, as they ever were, of opinion, that such a feeling has its origin in a misconception; that what Davy did was from the honest desire of promoting science, and not from any wish to detract from the merit of the French chemists.'"

Now, so far as this evidence goes, it is sufficiently exculpatory of the motives of the English philosopher, in having so hastily undertaken the examination of this new chemical substance; yet the extract which follows shews that there might still have existed strong grounds in the minds of some of the French savans as to the perfect reciprocity of politeness and candour between themselves and the English chemist. In a subsequent page of the memoir, our author observes:—

"Nothing ever exceeded the liberality and unaffected kindness with which the savans of France had received and caressed the English philosopher. Their conduct was the triumph of science over national animosity; a homage to genius, alike honourable to those who bestowed and to those who received it; and it would be an act of ingratitude, a violation of historical justice, on the part of the English biographer, did he omit to express the pride and admiration with which every philosopher in his country continues to regard it. It would have been fortunate for the cause of science, and fortunate for the historian, could he have terminated the subject with these remarks; but the biographer has an act of justice to perform, which he must not suffer his friendship to evade, nor his partialities to compromise. It would be an act of literary dishonesty to assert that Sir Humphry Davy returned the kindness of the savans of France in a manner which the friends of science could have expected and desired. There was a flippancy in his manner, a superciliousness and hauteur in his deportment, which surprised as much as they offended. Whatever opinions he might have formed as to the talents of the leading chemists, it was weakness to betray, and arrogance to avow them."

With all the admiration we feel, in conjunction with his biographer, and almost the whole of the votaries of science, for the splendid genius of Davy, we fear the latter years of the philosopher were clouded by a few other blemishes similar to that before mentioned, but applicable to his own countrymen as well as the scientific men of other countries.

We may still devote a few columns in an-

other No. of our *Gazette* to this highly interesting volume; while we take occasion to recommend it to the scientific world as a compendium, or progressive register, of all the different series of experiments and deductions which led to the most splendid and important discoveries made in modern science.

Memoirs of Dr. Currie, &c. 2 vols. 8vo.

[Second Notice: conclusion.]

HAVING, in our first notice of this work, done justice to its deserts and to the filial spirit of its execution, while we, at the same time, blamed its minuteness and prolixity, we do not consider ourselves called upon to redeem the pledge of another paper by going at length into the details of the second volume. In truth, there is much of it which it would have been better to have omitted; and one volume might have been found both more effectual and acceptable to the general public, however grateful two volumes may be to private and affectionate feelings. Much is written about the pamphlet of Jasper Wilson (i. e. Dr. Currie); but surely the ablest political letter of that date has no such attractions now, when the aspect of the world has been so completely changed by many wonderful events. Yet there are just and fine remarks interspersed in this correspondence; for instance: "The favour of mankind comes late to those who depend upon it, but the multitude delight to patronise those who have no need of their assistance."

On Medical Practice.—"In consultations with younger physicians, I have at times observed two opposite inconveniences. Where the junior has spoken first, he has sometimes given his opinion in such strong terms as to render any opposition to, or modification of, his sentiments more difficult than is desirable. On the other hand, I have known, where the senior was expressing his opinion, an eagerness to join with him lead the other to take the words out of his mouth (if I may so speak), and express in strong terms his assent to a mode of practice which, after all, may not have been exactly that which the former intended to propose. In one instance I was not long since brought into a considerable difficulty by a complete mistake made in this way, on an occasion of the greatest importance, and where a life most valuable was concerned. The remedy for these evils (if you judge them of sufficient importance) would be a rule, requiring the physician speaking first (and so in succession) to avoid peremptory terms, and to employ guarded and modest expressions; with another rule, assuring to each an uninterrupted hearing. These points seem more important in proportion as the number in consultation is greater, and may, on that account, be worth attention at your infirmary, where, I think, more of the profession act together than in any other institution in the kingdom."

On Governments.—"All governments are founded on opinion. We submit, because the king is our master and we are his slaves, say the Easterns; because he is our father and we are his children, say the Chinese and European monarchies; because submission to law and government is useful, say the freemen of America, and many of those of England. Now, of these natural foundations, the last appears the strongest, provided experience had clearly marked out the objects to which this usefulness required government to extend, and time had produced habitual submission and respect. What France has wanted is not proper foundations, or principles, but science or practical skill. It is one thing to understand the principles of

mechanics; it is another to build a ship. The government they raised was ill-constructed, its parts ill-suited. The balance, as far as experience goes, is the true system, and the proper division of powers. Republics or representative governments are as capable of these as our own constitution, two parts of which are hereditary. France will learn—she has got the true foundation, practice will tell her the edifice that is best. I detest the spirit and character of the Jacobins; but great changes are never produced by amiable, polished, and refined characters. Superstition, in the days of ignorance, is a giant—truth a dwarf. But enthusiasm is the Hercules sent by Heaven to combat this monster; to attack a savage with a savage's strength. You detest Luther, and Calvin, and Knox; so do I. Heaven forbid I should live with such men! But they produced the Reformation, and that was a mighty thing. Finer minds would not have encountered the hazard. What did Erasmus in the days of Luther? What would Blair have done in the days of Knox? I cannot deny that coarser, and perhaps less principled, men than Lafayette and Rochefoucauld were necessary to complete the triumph of France, and that Pétion and Dumourier were what the season required. I put things together roughly, but you will comprehend me. In regard to the extent to which the agitation may go, I should apprehend Europe will hardly bound it. The combat will be renewed again and again between old superstition and young enthusiasm; and the issue will, I dare say, be generally favourable to the last. See Hume's *Essay on Superstition and Enthusiasm*. My notion is, that all governments will finally be reduced to the system of utility, and that in proportion as they now differ from this, may the changes be expected to be. Judging in this way, our own government requires, I think, reformation only."

On Education.—"My notion of education, in its earlier parts, is like my idea of a national government: that it should be chiefly negative or preventive, so to speak, extending to as small an abridgment of liberty as possible, but absolute on the points on which it interferes; and that the faults attending it in general are, like the faults in governments in general, an interference where no interference is required, on a number of foolish points, to the injury of the human faculties, and to the neglect of those points which are essential. The analogy will not hold good as to the more advanced parts of education, because its objects then are to teach and instruct; whereas those of government should be confined, in my judgment, almost entirely to restraint."

On Parliamentary Reform.—"This scheme of equal representation is usually accompanied with the proposal for short periods of delegation, and other methods to make the delegate speak the sense of his representatives. But, under this system, the great majority of representatives being persons without property, the security of property to those who had it, would depend on the virtue of those who had none. If, on the other hand, it be supposed (what I am inclined to admit) that among a people considerably informed, and capable of fixed habits, such as our countrymen, the inviolability of property may be safely trusted to the sense of right, a danger presents itself of an opposite nature. Property being secured to the individual, however largely it may have accumulated, would probably operate with irresistible influence on the great mass of the labouring poor, of which three-fourths of the electors would con-

sist; and the union of two or three men of large fortune, in every county or district, would bear down every opposition from talents, activity, or virtue.

"It seems, then, that an extension of the elective franchise should be accompanied with certain reforms in the laws of property. This being conceded to me, I confess I should still not be disposed to go the length of a representation of heads. The young, the idle, the profligate, and those wretchedly poor and ignorant, form a large class of society, that do not sufficiently understand or sympathise in the interests of the whole; and those I would propose to exclude, in a great measure, by adopting another fundamental principle: giving the elective franchise, not to persons, but to families; in a word, to the fathers of families only. Such men have a valuable stake in the community, however small their property; and they are (not without many exceptions, indeed) a selection from the general mass, as to sobriety and industry. By adopting this principle, the greater and most dangerous part of the mob of great cities would be excluded; the greater part of the army and navy, and almost all the servants of great families—perhaps as vicious and dangerous a part of the community as any other—beings who possess at the same time the vices of luxury and ignorance."

Surely there is much room for speculation, even in our day, upon these thoughts, which bespeak a man of a good heart and a sound understanding. But we pass to the history of a philosopher: we have met with several of the same genus.

"A gentleman of a liberal education had, according to the fashion of the times, indulged himself, some years ago, in speculations on the improvement of the human race, and the perfectibility of man. By long, deep, and solitary meditation on these subjects, his mind became unsettled, and his reason gave way. He seemed to himself to want nothing but power to make mankind happy; and at length he became convinced that he had a right to that power. The consequence of this rendered it necessary to confine him; and about two years afterwards he was removed by his friends from the situation in which he was originally fixed, and placed under my care. At the time of which I speak he was become perfectly calm: he was on general subjects rational, and on every subject acute; but the original hallucinations were as fixed as ever. In occasional discussions of his visionary projects, I had urged, of my own suggestion, the objection, that when men became so happy as he proposed to make them, they would increase too fast for the limits of the earth. He felt the force of this; and, after much meditation, proposed a scheme for enlarging the surface of the globe, and a project of an act of parliament for this purpose, in a letter addressed to Mr. Pitt, very well expressed, and seriously meant, but which, if published, would appear satirical and ludicrous in a high degree. Having had occasion to mention his situation to his brother, a man of letters, he proposed that an experiment should be made of putting the quarto edition of Malthus's Essay into his hands, to which I assented. It was given to him last autumn, and he read it with the utmost avidity and seeming attention. In my visits I did not mention the subject to him, but desired the keeper to watch him narrowly. After finishing the perusal, he got pen, ink, and paper, and sat down, seemingly with an intention to answer it, or to write notes upon it. But he did not finish a single sentence, though he began many. He

then sat down to read the book again, aloud, and finished this second perusal in a few days, not omitting a single word, but stopping at times, and apparently bewildered. I now spoke to him, and introduced the subject, but he was sullen and impatient. He became very thoughtful, walked at a great pace in his airing-ground, and stopped occasionally to write, if I may so speak, words, but more frequently numbers, with a switch in the sand. These he obliterated, as I approached him. This continued some days, and he appeared to grow less thoughtful; but his mind had taken a melancholy turn. One afternoon he retired into his room, on the pretence of drowsiness. The keeper called him in a few hours, but he did not answer. He entered, and found the sleep he had fallen into was the sleep of death. He had 'shuffled off this mortal coil.' * * * I have no doubt that he perceived sufficiently the force of Malthus's argument to see the wreck of all his castle-building, and that this produced the melancholy catastrophe."

Perhaps Malthus would be very glad to have his work prescribed universally; since, if it produced these effects, it would at once co-operate with his system by reducing population, and put a large fortune into his pocket by the sale of his "Principles."

With this story we conclude; repeating that, for those who have sufficient leisure, there is much to amuse and inform in this publication; while the busy, who are pressed for time, may justly complain of its dwelling tediously on unimportant topics.

Voyages of the Companions of Columbus.

[Second Notice: conclusion.]

Or all the daring men who immediately succeeded the great and enterprising Columbus, Vasco Nuñez, the first who saw and navigated the vast Pacific Ocean, was one of the most remarkable in all the details of his perilous course. Among his followers was a bloodhound, named Leoncio, which the Spanish writers describe as his constant companion and body guard.

"He was of a middle size, but immensely strong: of a dull yellow or reddish colour, with a black muzzle, and his body was scarred all over with wounds, received in innumerable battles with the Indians. Vasco Nuñez always took him on his expeditions, and sometimes lent him to others, receiving for his services the same share of booty allotted to an armed man. In this way he gained by him, in the course of his campaigns, upwards of a thousand crowns. The Indians, it is said, had conceived such terror of this animal, that the very sight of him was sufficient to put a host of them to flight." *

The discovery of the Pacific Ocean, after a toilsome march from Darien, is finely told:—

"The day (26th of September, 1513) had

* These terrible animals were powerful allies to the Spaniards: for, besides many other notices of them, we are told of Juan Ponce, that "one of his most efficient warriors was a dog named Berezillo, renowned for courage, strength, and sagacity. It is said that he could distinguish those of the Indians who were allies, from those who were enemies of the Spaniards. To the former he was docile and friendly, to the latter fierce and implacable. He was the terror of the natives, who were unaccustomed to powerful and ferocious animals, and did more service in this wild warfare, than could have been rendered by several soldiers. His prowess was so highly appreciated, that his master received for him the pay, allowance, and share of booty assigned to a cross-bow man, which was the highest stipend given. This famous dog was killed some years afterwards by a poisoned arrow, as he was swimming in the sea in pursuit of a Carib Indian. He left, however, a numerous progeny and a great name behind him; and his merits and exploits were long a favourite theme among the Spanish colonists."

scarce dawned, when Vasco Nuñez and his followers set forth from the Indian village, and began to climb the height. It was a severe and rugged toil for men so wayworn; but they were filled with new ardour at the idea of the triumphant scene that was so soon to repay them for all their hardships. About ten o'clock in the morning they emerged from the thick forests through which they had hitherto struggled, and arrived at a lofty and airy region of the mountain. The bold summit alone remained to be ascended; and their guides pointed to a moderate eminence, from which they said the southern sea was visible. Upon this, Vasco Nuñez commanded his followers to halt, and that no man should stir from his place; then, with a palpitating heart, he ascended alone the bare mountain-top. On reaching the summit, the long-desired prospect burst upon his view: it was as if a new world were unfolded to him, separated from all hitherto known by this mighty barrier of mountains. Below him extended a vast chaos of rock and forest, and green savannahs and wandering streams, while at a distance the waters of the promised ocean glittered in the morning sun. At this glorious prospect Vasco Nuñez sank upon his knees, and poured out thanks to God for being the first European to whom it was given to make that great discovery. He then called his people to ascend. 'Behold, my friends,' said he, 'that glorious sight which we have so much desired. Let us give thanks to God that he has granted us this great honour and advantage; let us pray to him to guide and aid us to conquer the sea and land which we have discovered, and which Christian has never entered to preach the holy doctrine of the evangelists. As to yourselves, be as you have hitherto been, faithful and true to me, and by the favour of Christ you will become the richest Spaniards that have ever come to the Indies; you will render the greatest services to your king that ever vassal rendered to his lord; and you will have the eternal glory and advantage of all that is here discovered, conquered, and converted to our holy Catholic faith.' The Spaniards answered this speech by embracing Vasco Nuñez, and promising to follow him to death. Among them was a priest, named Andres de Vara, who lifted up his voice and chaunted *Te Deum laudamus*, the usual anthem of Spanish discoverers. The rest, kneeling down, joined in the strain with pious enthusiasm and tears of joy; and never did a more sincere oblation rise to the Deity from a sanctified altar, than from that wild mountain-summit. It was, indeed, one of the most sublime discoveries that had yet been made in the New World, and must have opened a boundless field of conjecture to the wondering Spaniards. The imagination delights to picture forth the splendid confusion of their thoughts. Was this the great Indian Ocean, studded with precious islands abounding in gold, in gems, and spices, and bordered by the gorgeous cities and wealthy marts of the East? or was it some lonely sea, locked up in the embraces of savage uncultivated continents, and never traversed by a bark, excepting the light pirogue of the savage? The latter could hardly be the case, for the natives had told the Spaniards of golden realms, and populous and powerful and luxurious nations upon its shores. Perhaps it might be bordered by various people, civilised in fact, though differing from Europe in their civilisation; who might have peculiar laws and customs, and arts and sciences; who might form, as it were, a world of their own, intercommuning by this mighty sea, and carrying on commerce between their own islands and

continents, but who might exist in total ignorance and independence of the other hemisphere."

They descended to the sea, and, "stooping down, tasted its waters. When they found that, though severed by intervening mountains and continents, they were salt like the seas of the north, they felt assured that they had indeed discovered an ocean, and again returned thanks to God."

Vasco Nuñez, on his return to Darien, was cruelly beheaded as a traitor, through the perfidiousness of the governor.

Juan Ponce's adventures are more amusing; for, being superseded in Porto Rico, our author tells us—"The loss of one wild island and wild government was of little moment, when there was a new world to be shared out, where a bold soldier like himself, with sword and buckler, might readily carve out new fortunes for himself. Beside, he had now amassed wealth to assist him in his plans, and, like many of the early discoverers, his brain was teeming with the most romantic enterprises. He had conceived the idea that there was yet a third world to be discovered, and he hoped to be the first to reach its shores, and thus to secure a renown equal to that of Columbus. While cogitating these things, and considering which way he should strike forth in the unexplored regions around him, he met with some old Indians, who gave him tidings of a country which promised, not merely to satisfy the cravings of his ambition, but to realise the fondest dreams of the poets. They assured him that, far to the north, there existed a land abounding in gold and in all manner of delights; but, above all, possessing a river of such wonderful virtue, that whoever bathed in it would be restored to youth! They added, that in times past, before the arrival of the Spaniards, a large party of the natives of Cuba had departed northward in search of this happy land and this river of life, and, having never returned, it was concluded that they were flourishing in renovated youth, detained by the pleasures of that enchanting country. Here was the dream of the alchemist realised! one had but to find this gifted land and revel in the enjoyment of boundless riches and perennial youth! nay, some of the ancient Indians declared that it was not necessary to go so far in quest of these rejuvenating waters, for that, in a certain island of the Bahama group, called Bimini, which lay far out in the ocean, there was a fountain possessing the same marvellous and inestimable qualities. Juan Ponce de Leon listened to these tales with fond credulity. He was advancing in life, and the ordinary term of existence seemed insufficient for his mighty plans. Could he but plunge into this marvellous fountain or gifted river, and come out with his battered war-worn body restored to the strength and freshness and suppleness of youth, and his head still retaining the wisdom and knowledge of age, what enterprises might he not accomplish in the additional course of vigorous years insured to him! It may seem incredible, at the present day, that a man of years and experience could yield any faith to a story which resembles the wild fiction of an Arabian tale; but the wonders and novelties breaking upon the world in that age of discovery almost realised the illusions of fable; and the imaginations of the Spanish voyagers had become so heated, that they were capable of any stretch of credulity. So fully persuaded was the worthy old cavalier of the existence of the region described to him, that he fitted out three ships at his own expense to

prosecute the discovery, nor had he any difficulty in finding adventurers in abundance ready to cruise with him in quest of this fairy-land."

Need we add that, examining the whole group of the Bahama islands, "his inquiries for the island of Bimini were all in vain; and as to the fountain of youth, he may have drank of every fountain, and river, and lake, in the archipelago, even to the salt pools of Turk's Island, without being a whit the younger."

He, however, discovered and took possession of Florida; but, "disheartened at length by the perils and trials with which nature seemed to have beset the approach to Bimini, as to some fairy island in romance, he gave up the quest in person, and sent in his place a trusty captain, Juan Perez de Ortuibia, who departed in one of the other ships, guided by the experienced old woman of the isles, and by another Indian. As to Juan Ponce, he made the best of his way back to Porto Rico, where he arrived infinitely poorer in purse and wrinkled in brow, by this cruise after inexhaustible riches and perpetual youth. He had not been long in port when his trusty envoy, Juan Perez, likewise arrived. Guided by the sage old woman, he had succeeded in finding the long-sought-for Bimini. He described it as being large, verdant, and covered with beautiful groves. There were crystal springs and limpid streams in abundance, which kept the island in perpetual verdure, but none that could restore to an old man the vernal greenness of his youth. Thus ended the romantic expedition of Juan Ponce de Leon. Like many other pursuits of a chimera, it terminated in the acquisition of a substantial good."

These extracts will speak for the merit of this volume; and we have only further to notice, that it concludes with a very interesting narrative of a pilgrimage to Palos, (whence Columbus sailed to discover the New World, and where the descendants of the Pinzons still live in patriarchal happiness,) which was most appropriately made by so distinguished a citizen of that New World as Washington Irving.

Constable's Miscellany, Vol. LXIII. The Achievements of the Knights of Malta. Vol. I. By Alexander Sutherland, Esq. author of "Tales of a Pilgrim." Edinburgh, 1831, Constable and Co.; London, Hurst, Chance, and Co.

MUCH industry has been bestowed on this volume, which, both for research and style, does Mr. Sutherland infinite credit. The beginning is taken up by the Crusades; an era every detail of which has been lately so fully before the public that we cannot find novelty for quotation. The ensuing anecdote is from the later period, which has much romantic interest.

"Bajazet having thus, by the celerity and secrecy of his march, and the order and evolutions of his army on the day of battle, totally overthrown the Christian army, proceeded to take a bloody revenge for the massacre which the French knights had perpetrated on the eve of the engagement. The Count of Nevers, and twenty-four lords of distinction, including the Sire de Coucy, and the Marshal Boucicault, were reserved for ransom; but the remainder of the captives were brought before his throne, and, on their refusal to abjure their faith, were successively decapitated in his presence—a sacrifice which deluged France with tears. The Sire de Coucy and Count D'Eu died in prison; but the other princes and barons, after being long exposed as a grateful trophy to the Moslems of Europe and Asia, were ultimately

ransomed for two hundred thousand ducats. It was stipulated in the treaty, that the French captives should bind themselves by oath, never again to bear arms against their conqueror; but Bajazet scornfully rejected the proffered pledge. 'I despise,' said he to the heir of Burgundy, 'thy oaths and thy arms. Thou art young, and mayest be ambitious of effacing the disgrace or misfortune of thy first field. Marshal thy troops, proclaim thy enterprise, and be assured, that thou canst not do Bajazet a greater favour than by giving him another opportunity of meeting thee in the shock of fight.'

We look forward with pleasure to the second volume, where the author will be on untrodden ground.

The Ladies' Museum. New and improved Series. No. I. London, 1831. Simpkin and Marshall.

EMBELLISHED with a very beautiful engraving of Finden's, from a picture of Howard's, "The Cottage Girl," (previously published, we believe,) and with a very varied table of contents, the *Ladies' Museum* appears to us the best of the novel competitors for female favour. We confess to having taken "feminine counsel's opinion" on the gaily arrayed figures that set forth the fashions, and the report has been favourable: the two evening dresses are pronounced "specially pretty."

Allan M'Dougal: or, Scenes in the Peninsula: a Tale. By a Military Officer. 3 vols. 12mo. London, 1831. Newman and Co.

THESE are three amusing volumes: the military scenes are really sketched with great spirit; and the character of the hero places the consequence of a vain craving for excitement in a true, and therefore forcible, point of view.

The Mayor of Garratt, &c. Pp. 45. London, 1831. Alf. Miller.

FOOTE's comedy, illustrated with clever and characteristic designs by R. Seymour, and well cut in wood by Nesbit, Slader, Welch, and Johnson. It is one of the neat and cheap editions of the day.

Belgium in 1830. Pp. 48. London, 1831. Colburn and Bentley.

A PAMPHLET written, we are told, by Prince Kosloffsky, in which he sets out by sacrificing intelligence, if not truth, to expediency (see first page), but, nevertheless, in the course of his remarks throws very considerable light upon the revolution in Belgium, its actors, and its probable effects on Europe. The work is evidently meant to support the cause of the Prince of Orange, and to recommend him to the throne, which seems to be begging an occupant.

The Daughter of Herodias: a Tragedy. By Henry Rich, Esq. 8vo. pp. 188. London, 1831. J. Andrews.

WE do not think the subject of this tragedy is well chosen: our opinions on all histories connected with the sacred one are so strongly defined from childhood upwards, that any author placing such events in an opposite light to that in which we have been accustomed to consider them, sets the whole array of early feelings and prejudices against him. We mean only as refers to our imagination; for, both in a religious and moral point of view, these scenes are beautifully drawn. The touches of feeling and of poetry in the following passages may speak for themselves.

"Yours must have been a happy life, poor novice, Not to have learnt, the more man wrongs, the more he hates."

"We had a common father;
Dost thou remember him? I well remember
How oft at eventide, when I had sung
That prayer you loved to teach his orphan boy,
How as the light grew less, and all was still
Within our narrow home, ere I retired
To rest, how you would draw me to yourself,
And tell fond tales of days that I remembered not,
While tears of yours fell fast and sweet."

"How changed is this cold dreary world to me!
Once could I smile, and think all nature smiled
Again on me, while I could court the brooks,
The valleys, and the mountains, and find joy
And beauty in them all, and with light heart
And bounding spirits, breathe the giddy air
That danced in joyful eddies round my brow;
Thence could I contemplate the world below
With unpropitious eye, see nought but peace
And happiness in life; then turning home,
Nestle in a friend's, a father's, mother's lap,
And with warm heart and ready tongue lip out
My joys, my wishes, and my love; could feel
A cheerful eye respond to mine where'er
I turned, and view content and mild serenity
Gathering around; I could unburthen all
My little cares, and live in confidence
And free expression of each opening thought
That rose unchecked within my happy mind."

Of all futures, that of poetry is the most difficult to foresee; but though, as a whole, we think this drama unequal, and that it does not assume a popular form, yet there are traces of thought and feeling which lead us to expect something much superior from its author.

Lays from the East. By Robt. C. Campbell. 12mo. pp. 252. London, 1831. Smith and Elder.

We always regret when individuals of good feeling, taste, and sense, mistake their talents for the inspiration of poesy, and are tempted to publish what ought never to have gone beyond the private circle of albums, or, at farthest, the columns of a periodical. Such are Mr. Campbell's *Lays from the East*.

The Book of the Seasons. By William Howitt. pp. 404. Colburn and Bentley. This pleasing volume has just reached us. It seems full of nature and good feeling.

Family Library, XIX. The Lives of the most Eminent British Painters, &c.: Architects. By Allan Cunningham. Murray. With the lives of William of Wykeham, Inigo Jones, Wren, Vanburgh, Gibbs, Kent, Lord Burlington, and Sir William Chambers, Mr. Cunningham has here made a very nice volume.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

EDWARD FORSTER, Esq. in the chair. — A paper, from the pen of Robert Hill, Esq. F.L.S. on a species of deer (*Cervus macrurus*) which inhabits the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, near Hudson's bay, was read. The paper was accompanied by drawings of the head and horns. This species derives its name, as may be readily anticipated, from the saltatory habits of the animal, which is never seen to use the paces of the other deer; and appears to form an intermediate link between the reindeer and roe-buck, to both of which it approaches in certain characters. Another communication, on the structure and economy of spiders, by John Blackwall, Esq. F.L.S. was also read. To this paper we may hereafter advert. Several fellows were elected.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

SIR JAMES SOUTH in the chair. A considerable number of fellows and associates were

elected into the Society. The following papers were read:—1st. A method of computing occultations, by Mr. MacLear. 2d. A letter from Professor Nicolai, with his observations, and those of Professor Swerd, of Venus about her inferior conjunction, and of the comet discovered by Gambart. 3d. A letter from Professor Santini, with observations of the right ascension of Venus about her inferior conjunction, as recommended by Professor Airy, and also containing observations of the comet discovered last year by Gambart. 4th. A letter from Professor Bianchi, containing observations on the same subject. 5th. A letter from Professor Struve, with observations of the occultation of Aldebaran and other stars by the moon, at Dorpat. 6th. Two notes by Mr. Lubbock, upon the comet of Halley. Sir James South informed the meeting that the King had been graciously pleased to become the patron of the Society, and that the negotiations respecting the charter were nearly completed.

BRITISH MUSEUM.

A LARGE and elegant apartment has been opened to the public during last week, containing a collection of foreign birds, the greater part of which are in a very bad state of preservation. The tables contain a general collection of shells, the British species being very properly left to accompany the British birds. Among them we remark some valuable presentations from Captain Lord Byron; Captains Owen, Beechey, and Ross; Messrs. Barrow, Swainson, Hennah, and Ritchie who died in Africa. There are illustrations of rare species from America, by Messrs. Say and Green; from Marseilles, by Risso; and from Newcastle, by Mr. Alder, a promising member of the Natural History Society of that town. We find, from our survey, that it is only by the most modern navigators and travellers that additions have been made to this public collection, for which, as a national museum, we hope, if the same spirit continues to prevail, we shall no longer have to blush; and therefore trust, that the care and arrangement of these valuable objects will be placed in proper hands; for who will collect or make presentations, if these, as has hitherto been the case, lie for years neglected in obscure cellars?

The collection of fossil univalves is excellent. Where are the bivalves? And, before we quit this subject, let us be allowed to express a hope, that the public will not be long debarred access to the mineralogical collection.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

J. A. HENDERSON, Esq. in the chair. A very interesting paper was read, entitled "An Inquiry into the Nature and Constitution of the Sap-vessels of Plants," by the author of the "Domestic Gardener's Manual." After noticing, at some length, the opinions of M. Dutrochet and others on vegetable physiology, the writer concludes with the following remarks on the spiral vessels of plants:—"These vessels," he says, "may act mechanically as springs, for their elasticity is prodigious. They exist in almost all plants, and the peculiarity of their structure, which closely resembles the coiled spring of a bell-wire, argues strongly that they have other functions allotted to them than that of merely conducting the sap. If, indeed, they are appendages to the sap-vessels,—if they wrap round and enclose, or are themselves placed internally within the membranous coat of those vessels,—(and the author is much inclined to believe that they are so, for the closest

observation of the vessels of the flower-stalk of the wild hyacinth, *scilla nutans*, convinced him that the spiral coil is by no means closely compressed, but is apparently enclosed, or encloses a fine filmy membrane);—if this be the case, then these spiral vessels may be most efficient mechanical agents in propelling the sap upwards. The pliancy of trees, the readiness with which they yield to the force of the winds, and the facility with which they recover their upright position, are facts strongly corroborating the idea,—that they contain internal springs, which, like coils of bell-wire, are capable of receiving and supporting motion in every direction, without offering impediments or sustaining injury."

Several varieties of the apple and pea were exhibited.

THE COMET.

ON Tuesday, at 14^h 14^m 10^s, sidereal time, the indefatigable Sir James South obtained another glimpse of the comet, and ascertained its right ascension to be 16^h 51^m 6^s, and its southern declination 9° 20' 11". Its right ascension in time, he observes, is diminishing nearly 4^m, and its southern declination almost 18^m daily. It is about 1° north of 20° Ophiuchi, and follows it about 11^m of time; forming nearly an isosceles triangle with α and ζ of that constellation. With these data, its future course may readily be traced; and we hope foreign astronomers may have had clearer skies than we have had, to mark its elements and progress.

Mr. Herapath also observed the comet again about the same period. He accords very closely with Sir James South; and adds, not only that its retrograde motion is confirmed, but that "it is much higher in the heavens than it was, and exceedingly increased in the length and splendour of its tail," which he considers, if it be really moving from the sun, an extraordinary phenomenon. A correspondent of the *Times* newspaper, at Liverpool, where it has also been observed, is of opinion that it has passed its perihelion. He also conjectures that it may be the comet of 1770, which passed the nearest to the earth, and engaged the researches of Lexel and Burckhardt; in which case, it would be moving to its perihelion, and about to complete its eleventh revolution of five and a half years since that period.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Proceedings of the Committee of Science and Correspondence of the Zoological Society of London. 8vo. Pp. 16.

THE Zoological Society of London was fully aware, at its first establishment, that, to ensure the success of zoology in this country, it was necessary to render its study popular and attractive; and this was only to be accomplished by expensive means, such as the establishment of a menagerie and a museum, and the publication of illustrated and entertaining works; so that a large accession of members was requisite to defray these expenses. And there are many who belong to the institution, who are hardly aware that the scientific part of that body have resolved themselves into a committee for the prosecution of their favourite pursuit. We have before us the first fasciculus of their labours, which is full of valuable information, and promises extremely well. Among other interesting notices, we observe a monograph by Mr. Vigors, on the Quails of the New World, which have all been arranged under the generic title of *Oryzopsis*—the quails of the Old World belonging to the genus *Coturnix*. Only two well-ascertained species of these were

a few years back known to ornithologists; but now we have eleven species, not including the quail from the Straits of Magellan, brought home by Captain King, and which, in the structure of the wing, associates more closely with the group of the Old World; uniting the zoology of the southern extreme of the New World with that of the nearest portions of the southern hemisphere, in like manner as the zoology of the northern extreme is united with that of the neighbouring continents of Europe and Asia.

The collection of birds, of Mr. J. Gould, from the Himma-leh mountains, many of them undescribed, exhibit an identity in a large proportion of their forms with those of northern Europe, the elevation of their native mountains placing them on an equality, in point of climate, with the birds of more northern latitudes. Many of the forms peculiar to southern Asia and the Indian archipelago are also found intermingled with those of the northern regions. Among the forms similar to the European, Mr. Vigors particularised three species of jays, two of which exhibited a striking affinity in their markings to our well-known British bird. The rest in form and other characters, approached the nutcrackers. Two species of woodpeckers verged most closely, in size and colouring, on the European green woodpecker. Among the forms peculiar to India was observed a second species of the singular group which contains the horned pheasant, or the *Meleagris satyra* of Linnæus, and which has been lately separated by Cuvier, under the name of *Tragopan*. A third species was likewise added, from the collection, to the group of *Enicurus* (*E. maculata*) of Temminck, which has hitherto been considered as limited in range to the Indian Archipelago.

Dr. Smith, a most laborious naturalist at Cape Town, has also made additions to the zoology of that district, of a new species of the *Macroscelides*, as well as a new one of *Erinaceus*, and three species of the genus *Otis*, together with one of *Brachypteryx*. The first, *Macroscelides rupestris*, was found by Dr. Smith in the mountains near the mouth of the Orange River. In the genus *Otis*, the *O. Vigorsii* inhabits the most dry and barren situations in the south of Africa; the *O. ferus* is found in the country towards Latakoo; and the *O. Afrasoides* is met with on the flats near the Orange River. The *Brachypteryx Horsfieldii* is met with on high rocky situations. Besides these additions, there are also sixteen specimens of fishes.

As might have been anticipated, the voyage of Captain King has been most productive in objects of natural history, more especially in ornithology; and this fasciculus contains descriptions of numerous new and interesting species from the Straits of Magellan; and altogether it forms an excellent epitome of the labours of the scientific committee of the Society.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex in the chair. The reading of Mr. Ivory's paper on the equilibrium of fluids, and the figure of a homogeneous planet in a fluid state, was resumed. Sir Martin Archer Shee, Knt. President of the Royal Academy, was proposed. Henry Percy Gordon, Esq. was admitted. Wm. John Blake, Esq. Christ Church, Oxford, was elected. Amongst the donations to the Society, was Professor Bessel's valuable

Tables for astronomical reductions from 1750 to 1850.

At a preceding meeting a paper was read, of which the following is an abstract, entitled, "On the nature of negative and imaginary quantities," by Davies Gilbert, Esq., President.

The object of this paper, the author observes, is one that has given rise to much controversy, and has been wrapped in much unnecessary mystery. Paradoxes and apparent solecisms, when involved with facts and indubitable truths, will always be found, upon accurate examination, to be near the surface, and to owe their existence either to ambiguities of expression, or to the unperceived adoption of some extraneous additions or limitations into the compound terms employed for definition, and which are subsequently taken as constituent parts of their essence. The first misapprehension pointed out, is that of considering any quantity whatever as *negative per se*, and without reference to another opposed to it, which has previously been established as *positive*. In order to avoid preconceived associations of ideas, the author prefers employing in his reasonings on this subject, the symbols (*a*) and (*b*) to express this quality of opposition, rather than the usual ones of *plus* and *minus*. By the aid of this notation, he is enabled to present, in its full generalisation, the law of the signs in multiplication, a process which it is well known is founded solely upon the principle of ratios; and to shew that like signs invariably give the sign belonging to the assumed unity and universal antecedent of the ratios; and unlike signs the contrary.

Since either the one or the other of the arithmetical scales derived from the two unities is in itself equally affirmative, but negative with relation to the other, it follows, that by using the scale of (*b*), all even roots in the scale of (*a*) will become imaginary; and thus the apparent discrimination of the two scales is removed; so that the properties belonging to the two scales are interchangeable, and all formulæ become universally applicable to both, by changing the signs according to the side in which the universal antecedent is taken. Imaginary quantities, then, are merely creations of arbitrary definitions, endowed with properties at the pleasure of him who defines them; and the whole dispute respecting their essence turns upon the very point that has been contested, from the earliest times, between the hostile sects of realists and nominalists.

It is now, however, universally agreed, that all abstractions and generalisations are mere creatures of the reasoning faculty, existing no where but in the mind contemplating them. Such in algebra are the supposed even roots of a real quantity taken in the scale opposite to that which has given the universal antecedent; the sign indicating the extraction impossible to be performed, veils the real quantity, and renders it of no actual value until the sign is taken away by an involution the reverse of the supposed operation which the sign represents; although the quantity itself is in the meantime, by its arbitrary essence, made applicable to all the purposes for which real quantities are used in every kind of formula. Several illustrations of these views of the nature of imaginary quantities, occurring in logarithmic formulæ and series expressing circular arcs, are given by the author. By considering all quantity as affirmative *per se*, and admitting *plus* and *minus* merely as corrective terms, we thus succeed in banishing mystery and paradox from the science most powerful in eliciting

truth, and where they ought least to find a place.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

ON Thursday, Henry Hallam, Esq., V.P., in the chair. The Secretary read a communication from John Gage, Esq., director, descriptive of the Bell Tower at the Abbey of St. Edmund's Bury, with a document containing some curious particulars relative to the repairs of the tower in the time of Henry VI. An account was also read of a serious insurrection which took place shortly after the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII., principally instigated by the monks. Also, an account of the entry of Henry VIII. into Lincoln, drawn up by a herald of the time.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

SIR W. OUSELEY in the chair:—The Society of Arts, Mr. Huttman, and others, made donations to the Society. Two papers were read; the first was an account of a celebrated Arabic work, called the *Ichwan oos Suffa*, principally from the famous Syrian historian, Mar Gregorius Abul Faraj. This work is said to owe its existence to a society of seven learned Arabs, and to have formed one of at least fifty treatises on various branches of science, of which, including the present, only three now remain. It is a moral treatise, in the shape of an allegorical picture of human life. Lieut. Rowlandson communicated this essay. The second paper comprised a description of the marriage ceremonies of the Hindoos. It stated, that every man among them should have his daughter married by the time she is nine years of age; and that her marriage should, on no account, be deferred beyond her tenth year. The bridegroom should be at least three or four years older, and of the same caste. These ceremonies are conducted with more or less of magnificence, as suits the rank and means of the parties; but they frequently expend such immense sums on the marriage of their children, that the parents themselves are reduced to poverty and distress.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.

WE have at various times reported progress in what concerns this interesting Institution, and have now to add to the several appointments mentioned on preceding occasions, those of N. W. Senior, Esq. to the chair of political economy; J. J. Park, Esq. English law and jurisprudence; the Rev. Henry Moseley, natural and experimental philosophy; Joseph Lowe, Esq. lectureship of commerce; the Rev. J. R. Major, A.M. head master of the High School, attached to the upper department.

ECLECTIC SOCIETY.

ON Tuesday, Dr. Uwins, V.P., in the chair. Dr. John Epps was elected Professor of Medicine to the Society. Dr. Uwins read his paper on "the poetical character, as connected with, and extending its influence over, intellectual and moral habits." It is impossible to do justice to this essay by any partial account of it. The Society's Professor of Botany, Mr. John Frost, gave his introductory lecture on that science. The meeting was numerously attended.

FINE ARTS.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The King's Harriers in their Kennel. Painted by R. B. Davis; drawn on stone by J. W. Giles. Dickinson.

As admirable an animal conversazione as can

be imagined; and exhibiting perfect familiarity with canine character. To judge by the various and vivacious expression, the talk (with the exception of two or three abstracted philosophers, who are probably meditating on their past courses), is of the most sprightly and interesting description. As a composition, it is highly creditable to Mr. Davis; and, with regard to its execution as a print, we may, availing ourselves of a vulgar phrase, say, that there are few lithographers who can "chalk beyond it."

Alexander Morison, Esq. M.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 1829. From a painting by J. Irvine; on stone by M. Gaudi. Dickinson.

There is a homogeneity in the features of this calm, reflecting, benevolent countenance, which satisfies us that it is a faithful resemblance.

The Smugglers Alarmed. Painted by John Knight; drawn on stone by Thomas Fairland. Engelmann, Graf, Coindet, and Co. We have already spoken with the praise which was its due, of Mr. Knight's exceedingly clever representation of one of those moments of agitation to which a life of lawless violence must be frequently subject. Mr. Fairland has transferred the scene to stone in a sketchy style, but with great spirit and success.

Richard Cœur de Lion and Saladin, at the Battle of Ascalon. Painted by A. Cooper, R.A.; engraved by W. Giller. Moon, Boys, and Graves.

ONE of Mr. Cooper's most animated productions. Nothing can be finer than the contrast between the characters and the modes of fighting of the English and the Saracenic monarchs; the former, perfectly erect in his saddle, his countenance breathing haughty defiance, his broad chest exposed, with no protection but the cross; his ponderous battle-axe raised aloft to the full extent of the swing of his brawny arm, and ready to descend with overwhelming force on his infidel antagonist: the latter not less brave, but more wily, conscious of his inferior strength, covering himself with his shield, endeavouring to sway his supple frame out of the reach of the stern foe, and anxiously watching for the moment when, with his keen rapier, he may successfully avail himself of his "trick of fence." The subordinate combatants, and the various incidents of the well-contested field, are also admirably represented. We do not think that mezzotinto is the most suitable style of engraving for such a subject; but we cannot withhold our applause of the great force and delicacy of execution exhibited by Mr. Giller.

Hogarth Moralised; a complete Edition of all the most admired and capital Works of William Hogarth; accompanied with concise and comprehensive Explanations of their Moral Tendency, by Dr. Trusler; an Introduction, and many additional Notes. Part I. Major.

FOR us to enter into any disquisition on the merits of the great comic painter of England, especially after the admirable character of him and of the creations of his genius, which has lately appeared from the able pen of Mr. Allan Cunningham, would indeed be a work of supererogation. Although the expression, and many of the circumstances of humorous and moral illustration, in the prints of Hogarth, must necessarily be deteriorated by any considerable reduction of size; yet much of interest must

still remain; and those who are unable to procure the originals, will find even the smallest miniatures of them full of amusement and instruction. We are glad, therefore, to see the present revival of Dr. Trusler's publication, which we believe originally came forth in the year 1766. The doctor's descriptions, although occasionally rather verbose, are, upon the whole, satisfactory, and contain a great mass of elucidatory matter; to which the notes by the present editor promise to make a number of valuable additions. Several of the plates in this first part of the new publication (which is to be completed in four quarterly parts) are executed with great skill; and, with reference to them all, the wonder is, that so much of the spirit of Hogarth has been retained. To this the somewhat increased scale on which a few of the principal subjects have been engraved has contributed. We observe, from one of the notes, that it is intended, very judiciously, to prune Dr. Trusler's collection of a few subjects; among others, of the disgusting plates which represent "The Four Stages of Cruelty;" and to substitute some of Hogarth's posthumous productions.

The Pointer. Painted by M. T. Ward; the engraving commenced by J. Scott, finished by J. Webb. Moon, Boys, and Graves.

WE beg to return our personal thanks to Messrs. Moon, Boys, and Graves, for having delayed bringing out this print until the month of January. Had it appeared in September, it would have been too tantalising to us, unfortunate critics, "in populous city pent." We should have been sadly tempted to throw down our pen, and take up our Manton; to exchange our inkstand for our shooting-belt; and to transfer ourselves, as rapidly as possible, from Wellington Street to the rich stubbles of some of the inland counties. A nobler creature than this "pointer," or one more eager, and at the same time more steady in the performance of his duty, we never saw, in brake or field. The attitude is perfect; the head, body, and limbs, are finely drawn; and the general effect of the engraving (with the exception of a little want of keeping in the back ground) is masterly and striking.

POETRY.

LINES ON CANNING'S FUNERAL.

By Lord Morpeth.

[Extracted from Stapleton's Memoirs.]

I STOOD beside his tomb—no choral strain
Peal'd through the aisle, above the mourning train;
But purer, holier, seemed to rise above
The silent sorrow of a people's love.

No banner'd scroll, no trophied car was there,
No gleaming arms, no torches' murky glare—
The plain and decent homage best defined
The simple tenour of his mighty mind.

His hard-earn'd, self-acquired, enduring fame
Needs not what wealth may buy, or birth may claim;

His worth, his deeds, no storied urns confine—
The page of England's glory is their shrine.

Are others wanting? Mark the dawn of peace
That gilds the struggle of regenerate Greece—
On Lisbon's heights see Britain's flag unfurl'd,
See freedom bursting o'er an infant world!

Ask ye how some have loved, how all revere?
Survey the group that bend around his bier;
Read well the heaving breast, the stifled moan,
—Kings, with their kingdoms, could not win
that groan!

DRAMA.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.

HAVING previously appeared in public at Vauxhall, and made the tour of the provinces, this week has been produced as an Olympic novelty, *The Chaste Salute*, of Mr. Planché; with this, Madame Vestris has nothing to do. Indeed, however great may be the exertions of which that lady is capable, or however it might conduce to the gratification of her admirers, it is too much to expect her to undergo the fatigue of four pieces every night. With regard to the burletta, we have only to remark that it furnished the means of introducing M. Spagnoletti to the public; but so deplorably was his part obliterated from his memory, as grievously to destroy the effect of the piece, and totally that of his *début*. A very clever little girl, a Miss Sidney, also made her first appearance and a far more favourable impression. She promises fair, and may, some of these days, attain a far higher degree of excellence; and is undoubtedly a great acquisition to the *corps dramatique*. Another new piece, *The Lost Son*, made its first essay; the success of which was insured by "putting the best Foot foremost."

VARIETIES.

Geological Memoirs.—Privy Counsellor Dr. Karsten, of Berlin, has begun a new series of his very valuable *Archiv für Bergbau und Hüttenwesen*, under the title *Archiv für Mineralogie, Geognosie, Bergbau und Hüttenkunde*, or Archives of Mineralogy, Geology, Mining, and Metallurgy. The first Number contains, besides many other valuable papers, a geological description of the islands of Skye and Eigg.

Henry Mackenzie.—We have only room to say in this *Gazette*, that Henry Mackenzie, Esq., the venerable author of the *Man of Feeling*, died last week in Edinburgh, in his 86th year.

Greek Antiquities in India.—The Chevalier Ventura, formerly in the French army, and now a general in the service of Runjeet Singh, was encamped, in April last, near Manickiala, or Manicayala, where there are the ruins of a large city. The place is seventy-two miles east of the Indus, and thirty or forty west of the Jhylum or Hydaspes, in lat. 33° 23' north, and long. 73° 15' east. In Elphinstone's *Cabul*, the very remarkable stone cupola, on the top of a solid mound, which is believed by the natives to have been built by the gods, is described as bearing a much greater resemblance to Greek than to Hindoo architecture. General Ventura made an opening into the cupola, and, on digging three feet, he found six medals; and afterwards the workmen came to a chamber of hewn stone, twelve feet square. The excavation was continued to the depth of thirty-six feet, and another opening was afterwards made in the north side of the cupola, and more than eighty medals were found. Most of them were copper, but some were gold and silver. There were also other curiosities, rings, and boxes containing liquids. We understand that the chevalier intends to transmit an account of his praiseworthy labours and discoveries to the Asiatic Society. Perhaps this may be the site of some of the cities that were founded by Alexander or Seleucus in the dominions of Taxiles.—*Bengal Hurkaru.*

Asbestos.—In a communication recently made to the French Academy by M. Aldini, with reference to his fire-proof dresses, he states that some experiments, which have been made at Milan, seem to shew that gar-

ments, composed of asbestos, will supersede the necessity of metallic dresses. A manufactory for asbestos cloth has already been established at Vallegine; and a paper-maker has it in contemplation to employ it instead of cotton or linen in the fabrication of paper intended for theatrical scenery. Asbestos may be easily imported from Corsica, where it is found in great plenty, and of excellent quality. It exists also in several other countries of Europe, in which no use is at present made of it.

The Figurative.—Mr. O'Connell, in a letter to the people of Ireland, of the 14th, tells them "that Lord Anglesey carries on the political warfare more in the fashion of the savages of New Zealand than in the modes adopted by civilised nations." Who would have thought this, considering that the lord lieutenant had carried it on by proclamations; and in one case, by the interference of two police magistrates, proceeding under an act of parliament!!!

Mean Temperature of Twenty-eight different Places in the State of New York.

In 1836, the mean temperature of ten places was ... 49.4
1838, the mean temp. of twenty-three places was 49.09
1839, the mean temp. of twenty-eight places was 46.45

In 1826, the mean rain of nine places was 26.94
1828, the mean rain of twenty-five places was .. 28.74
1829, the mean rain of twenty-five places was .. 54.38
Mean 25.96

We ought to remark, that though not obtruded under our scientific head (in which we principally look to insert original matter), such varieties as this are of much importance to the physiologist.

Connexion of hard Water and Beer.—Hard water is found in many instances favourable to the manufacture of beer; the Barnstaple and Liverpool ales, which are considered excellent in quality, and some others, are brewed with hard water. The Derby malt, which is much used in Lancashire, is found to make better beer in that county than in Derbyshire; and it may be supposed that the Lancashire water, which generally contains much carbonate and sulphate of lime, occasions the difference. The river Trent has long been celebrated for the excellence of the ale made from its water; Burton, Nottingham, and the other towns which lie upon it, being famous for their malt liquor all over England. The river Trent is well known to run over calcareous strata in its course. The same brewer cannot, with the same malt, produce an equal beer in any other part of the kingdom.

Antiquities.—In making excavations at Turin, for the purpose of erecting some new houses in the square Emmanuel-Philibert, an ancient and pretty extensive edifice has been discovered,—elegant, and magnificently ornamented, and of which there is nothing to indicate the original destination. The pavement is composed of slabs of the finest marble, skilfully united. Two tumular stones announce, by the two inscriptions which are engraved upon them, that *Scudo* had prepared one of these tombs for himself, and the other for his wife *Cristes*. These names, and the shape of the letters of the inscription, characterise the second century of the Christian era. A great number of medals have also been found: the oldest are of the date of the Emperor Constantine. But what is much more important for archeology and architecture, is the discovery of the foundations of the walls which formed the boundary of Turin in the ninth century. The quality of the materials, and the mode of construction, are similar to those of the ancient palatine port, now Tours (*le Torri*). This monument, due no doubt to the Lombard

dukes, who resided at Turin from the seventh to the eighth centuries, is the finest ruin which remains in Italy, or in Europe, of the profane architecture of that period, when the art, then in its decay, knew no other law than a capricious license.—*Gazette Piemontaise*.

Singular Phenomenon.—Before the Artesian wells were in use, the inhabitants of Thairi, in Savoy, wishing to procure water, dug, in 1825, a well in that commune. They could not find a sufficiently abundant source for their wants; but in default of water, this well, by a curious singularity, exhibits all the variations of the atmosphere, and almost obviates the necessity of a barometer to indicate the weather. If the vicinity of Thairi is menaced with hail or snow, an impetuous wind rushes from it like a torrent, which carries with it stones and pieces of rock, and the wind lasts as long as the snow or hail is likely to fall, and indicates the quantity. When this wind ceases after a slight breeze, a south-east wind is about to manifest itself. When the wind rushes from it suddenly, in a single gust and with violence, it indicates an approaching storm. When the weather is fine, and the north wind dominates, the well is tranquil, and the air is in a state of stagnation. Several naturalists, attracted by these marvellous effects, have sought to explain the cause of them; and the academical bodies and the men of science of Turin, Chamberri, and Grenoble, have visited the spot, and, by various experiments, established the fact that the well possesses the properties here attributed to it.—*La Voleur*.

Direction of the Diluvial Waves in the Shetland Islands.—From an inspection of the mass of clay and transported boulders, which lie dispersed over the Shetland islands, Dr. Hibbert has given it as his opinion, that the great currents which deluged the British islands, as well as some parts of the continent, had, in these islands, a north-easterly origin, or a south-westerly direction. Our notions of the geological deluge, as connected with the upraising of mountain chains, would lead us to a very different system of research, and a much more extended inquiry, than that which has been pursued by the learned author in this otherwise curious generalisation.

New Species of Natural not Oxydized Combinations of Antimony and Arsenic.—Professor Henry Rose, of Berlin, in the 15th vol. of Pogendorff's *Annalen der Physik und Chemie*, has given the analysis of several minerals as belonging to this class of substances. Tinkenite, from the Walfaberg, in the eastern Harz; Miargyrite, or the hemiprismatic rubyblende of Mohs, from Braunsdorf, in Saxony; Jamesonite, from Cornwall; plumose, gray antimony (federerz), from Wolfsberg, in the eastern Harz, in capillary crystals; red silver, a light variety from Ivachimethal in Bohemia; brittle silver glance, from Shennitz, in Hungary, crystallised in six-sided prisms; bournonite, from the Pfaffenberg mine, in the eastern Harz; polyenite, a new species, from Guarismagay, in Mexico, and Morgenstein, in Saxony; gray copper, or fahlerz, from the mines of Alsace, Freiberg, Hungary, Nassau, Clausthal, &c.; and lastly, nickeliforous, gray antimony.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

[Literary Gazette Weekly Advertisement, No. IV. Jan. 32.]

A Panorama of Constantinople and its Environs, from Sketches taken on the spot by J. Pitman, Esq.—A Topographical and Statistical Description of the British Dominions in North America, including Observations on Land-granting and Emigration, &c., by Colonel Bouchette.—Leigh's Guide for Travellers through Wales and Mon-

mouthshire, with Map, &c.—The Siege of Constantinople, a Poem, in three Cantos, by Nicholas Michell.—The Anti-Materialist, or a Manual for Youth, by the Rev. R. Warner, F.S.A. &c. author of "Literary Recollections," &c. &c.—Parts I. and II. of "A Translation from the German, of the Anatomical Atlas of Dr. M. J. Weber, Professor at Bonn.—The Welsh Interpreter, containing a Concise Vocabulary and useful Phrases, on the plan of Blagdon's French Interpreter, by Mr. Roberts, of Llynrhudol.—Framlingham, a Narrative of the Castle, Historical and Descriptive; a Poem, by James Bird, author of "the Vale of Sloughden," &c. &c.—Examples in Algebra, by the Rev. W. Foster, M.A.—A Refutation of Mr. Palgrave's Remarks on the Observations on the State of Historical Literature; together with additional Facts relative to the Record Commission and the Record Office, by Nicholas Harris Nicolas.—The Privy Purse Expenses of Elizabeth of York, and the Wardrobe Accounts of Edward the Fourth, with original Memoir of Elizabeth of York, by the Same.—A Help to Professing Christians, by the Rev. John Barr.—Mr. Payne, author of "an Exposition of Jacotot's System," has in the press the Epitome Historie Sacre, adapted by a literal English Translation, &c. to Jacotot's method of instruction; and also a Manual for those who wish either to teach or learn Latin by this plan.—Agave, or the Sacred Love-pledge, by Mrs. Lachlan.—The following is a list of the contents of the forthcoming Number of the Quarterly Review:—The Political Economists—Mi. Southey's Lives of Uneducated Poets—Dymond on the Principles of Morality—Origin of the Homeric Poems—Moore's Life of Byron—the Military and Mob of Paris—Present State of the Country.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Mitford's Stories of American Life, 3 vols. 18mo. 10s. 6d. bd.—Dax's Exchequer Practice, 8vo. 16s. bds.—Pillar of Divine Truth, 8vo. 6s. bds.—Rich's Daughter of Herodias, a Tragedy, 8vo. 6s. bds.—Bennett's Songs of Solitude, 12mo. 5s. bds.—Barr's Help to Professing Christians, 12mo. 4s. 6d. bds.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1831.

January.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday ... 13	From 30. to 38.	30.02 to 30.04
Friday ... 14	— 30. — 40.	30.08 Stationary
Saturday ... 15	— 28. — 33.	29.94 — 29.82
Sunday ... 16	— 27. — 34.	29.76 — 29.73
Monday ... 17	— 30. — 43.	29.59 — 29.54
Tuesday ... 18	— 31. — 46.	29.52 — 29.46
Wednesday ... 19	— 47.	29.59 — 29.61

Wind variable, S.E. prevailing.
Except the evening of the 17th and morning of the 18th, overcast with rain at times.
Rain fallen, .275 of an inch.

CHARLES H. ADAMS.

Latitude 51° 37' 32" N.
Longitude 0 3 51 W. of Greenwich.

Extracts from a Meteorological Register kept at High Wycombe, Bucks, by a Member of the London Meteorological Society. December 1830.

Thermometer—Highest	46.00°
Lowest	9.75
Mean	32.54032
Barometer—Highest	30.19
Lowest	29.65
Mean	29.95784

Number of days of rain or snow, 13.
Quantity of rain and melted snow in inches and decimals, 1.635.

Winds.—7 East—4 West—1 North—0 South—6 North-east—1 South-east—5 South-west—7 North-west.

General Observations.—The mean of the barometer was lower than any one in December during the journalist's residence in Wycombe, and the range of the thermometer greater than in the same month for the last eight years; while the mean was lower, excepting in the last year, than any in the corresponding month for the same period: of the quantity of rain and melted snow the like report must be made as of the mean of the thermometer. Snow fell on the 12th, 15th, 22d, 24th, and 27th—the whole quantity not more than 2½ inches. On the night of the 11th a beautiful aurora borealis was seen for several hours. On the 1st, on the following morning it assumed the form of a brilliant arch, surmounted by a brown tint, which faded away into a silvery light, something resembling that afforded by the moon before she appears above the horizon—a deeper brown colour filled up the space beneath the luminous arch. Another, but very faint, aurora was observed on the 15th. Lunar halos seen on the nights of the 23d, 24th, and 26th—that on the latter night was remarkably bright, and well defined. The evaporation 0.0625 of an inch.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To our respectable correspondent at Norwich we beg to say, that it is hardly our province to correct the blunders of any of our contemporaries. We are surprised that he expected any thing else in the quarter alluded to. The tissue of absurdity and error purporting to be a sketch of Cardinal Weld, is below notice.

M. N. will find a letter at our Office.
We can have nothing to say to K. A. lines to Henri.
ERRATUM.—In our account of Mr. Deville's lecture at the Society of Arts last week, p. 41, col. 1, third line from bottom, for "posted," read "frosted."

ADVERTISEMENTS, Connected with Literature and the Arts.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.
Notice to Artists.—All Works of Art intended for the ensuing Exhibition must be sent on Monday the 7th and Tuesday the 8th of March next, between the Hours of Ten in the Morning and Five in the Evening.

JOHN WILSON, Secretary.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The Council hereby give Notice, that Alexander Blair, LL.D. Professor of English Philology, Rhetoric, and English Literature, will commence his Course of Rhetoric, on Monday the 24th of January, at half-past Two o'clock.

A Lecture will be delivered every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at the same hour, to the end of the Session.
Dr. Landman's Popular Course of Eighteen Lectures, on Mechanics and Hydraulics, will commence on Monday the 24th of January, at half-past Seven in the Evening, and will be continued on Mondays and Thursdays, at the same hour.
The Annual Course of Lectures on Political Economy, by Professor Macculloch, will commence on Wednesday the 24th of February, at half-past Ten o'clock, and will be continued every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, at the same hour to the end of the Session.

For further Particulars apply at the Office of the University, 10th January, 1831.
N.B. The London University Calendar, published by Mr. Taylor, No. 30, Upper Gower Street, and to be had of all other Booksellers, contains a very full account of each Professor's Course of Lectures, and of the whole plan of the University.

TO SCHOOLMASTERS.—A Lady, who conducts an Establishment for a limited number of Young Ladies of the first respectability, is desirous of exchanging one or two of her Sons with a Gentleman for one or more of his Daughters, upon Terms of mutual advantage. The most unexceptionable References will be given and received.
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Printed for Henry Colburn, and published every Saturday morning by W. Thomas, at the Office, 19, Catherine Street, Strand, and regularly supplied by the Booksellers and Newsmen throughout all parts of the United Kingdom.

THE UNITED SERVICE JOURNAL.

The distinguished favour with which this Periodical has been received since its commencement, not only by the two Services to which it is more immediately addressed, but by the public in general, is not a little gratifying to the Proprietors, inasmuch as they consider it a proof that the execution of the work has met with general approval, and assuredly a very true lover of his country, in pursuing the details of operations that led to the triumphs achieved by a Nelson and a Wellington—in reading narratives of individual heroism and suffering—in participating, as it were, in the exploits of our gallant soldiers and sailors in every quarter of the globe—in short, in tracing the progress of those events which have conferred such lustre on the British arms—must feel a deep and anxious interest. But in securing to their Journal the various advantages it has hitherto possessed, the Proprietors have made considerable sacrifices by having repeatedly exceeded their proper limits, without, however, being able to do full justice to their numerous and valuable contributors. Under these circumstances, they have determined to enlarge the plan and price of their Work to the same extent as those of the *New Monthly Magazine*; so that, like that popular periodical, each year of the United Service Journal will in future consist of three volumes. By these means they trust they shall be enabled to render their Journal still more worthy of public favour, as they shall thus obtain space for many additional valuable communications, and be enabled to open new and important channels of information both at home and abroad.
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